THE

MEMOIRS

AND

ADVENTURES

OF

MARK MOORE,

LATE AN OFFICER IN THE BRITISH NAVY.

INTERSPERSED

With a Variety of original ANECDOTES, ſelected from his Journals, when in the Tuſcan, Portugueſe, Swediſh, Imperial, American, and Britiſh Service, in each of which he bore a Commiſſion.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

As the Author has been at Intervals the Manager of a reſpectable Company of Comedians, in ſeveral of the principal Towns of England, France, and Flanders, he has alſo added ſome original Sketches of ſeveral Theatrical Characters, who now rank high in the Theſpian Corps—— With Deſcriptions of the various Scenes in which he has been lately involved, through the Machinations of petty-fogging Attornies, in which the Arts of thoſe Terriers of the Law are fully expoſed, for the Benefit of Society.

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M,DCC,XCV.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

RICHARD EARL HOWE,

&c. &c. &c.

MY LORD,

I HOPE your Lordſhip will pardon the liberty I take in dedicating the following work to you; I am not ſo vain as to imagine that any thing I can write ſhould entitle me to that diſtinction, but I aſpire to it on other grounds.—It is natural to ſuppoſe, that an old ſeaman, who has always placed his greateſt pride in the glory of the Britiſh flag, ſhould be

be anxious to embrace the firſt opportunity of paying his tribute to your Lordſhip.

The Navy has always been the favourite ſervice with every honeſt Engliſhman. It has been the conſtant theme of our poets, the deareſt ſubject of our hiſtorians, and the ſtateſman and patriot have derived their brighteſt honours from the ſucceſs of our fleets. Under the protection of the Britiſh flag our merchants have explored new markets, and enlarged old ones; and the productions of our artizans have been conveyed to the moſt diſtant quarters of the globe. It is barely juſtice to ſay, that your Lordſhip never miſſed any opportunity of convincing the world that your mind, from early youth, has been conſtantly inſpired, and your actions directed by thoſe exalted ſentiments.

In

In ſupport of this aſſertion, ſcarce need I mention the FIRST OF JUNE! to uſe an expreſſion of the late Earl of Chatham, "*That was a proud day for England.*" In the midſt of our unbounded joy on that occaſion, we did not forget our brave fellow ſubjects who fell in that conflict; they expired contented in the arms of victory; and ſuch as had wives and children, left them to the protection of God, and the gratitude of their King and country. On that glorious day your Lordſhip maintained the dominion of our *native element*; with that glorious action your Lordſhip might have cloſed a long and bright career. You might have repoſed on the laurels you had ſo bravely won, but your country called on you once more, and your Lordſhip has obeyed that call with alacrity. You are ſtill at your poſt, and I know that death or victory is your motto.

Theſe

Theſe are the honeſt effuſions of my heart, and I hope that your Lordſhip will excuſe me; I may have ſaid too much for your Lordſhip, but I am ſure there is no Engliſhman will ſay, that I have ſaid as much as I could, for, when the very enemies of Great Britain themſelves bear ample teſtimony to your Lordſhip's courage, conduct, and zeal, I may be permitted to join my feeble voice in the general acclamation.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

With the higheſt reſpect,

Your Lordſhip's moſt devoted

And very humble ſervant,

M. MOORE.

PREFACE.

NOTWITHSTANDING a celebrated Engliſh writer ſays, "No book was ever ſpared out of tenderneſs to its author," I conceived, that out of reſpect to the Public, and through the hope of conciliating indulgence, I ſhould ſay a few words by way of apology, for a work uſhered into the world, with all its "imperfections on its head." To deprecate criticiſm would be needleſs—I am beneath it—The lightening falls on the lofty fane, but paſſes over the trembling reed without touching it—I will not conceal it—I hope to pleaſe

and

and intereſt—But it is as fair to confeſs, that this work was compoſed at ſuch intervals, and under ſuch circumſtances, as would even damp the ſparks of real genius. When I firſt propoſed this undertaking to myſelf, I fondly hoped, that I ſhould give ſatisfaction; at leaſt, under this pleaſing impreſſion, I weighed anchor, and bent my ſails; but ſcarce had I quitted the ſhores, when I met with adverſe gales and quick-ſands, and it was with difficulty I got into port. To drop the figure, when I took up my pen, I flattered myſelf that I ſhould have a little leiſure to review my paſt life, to arrange my anecdotes, and above all, to do juſtice to the memory of thoſe who had ſunk into the grave, and who had ſerved me in their life-time, but I was ſoon awakened from this pleaſing dream. I then hoped I ſhould experience more ſucceſs when I got into my native element—the ſea. I heard a friend of

mine

mine once ſay, that the ſimple, unaffected narrative of Robinſon Cruſoe, had more ſeamen than any other book in our language. If this is the caſe, ſaid I to myſelf, I ſhall have an opportunity of painting the glories of a naval engagement, and the pleaſures of the ſparkling glaſs. When the thunder of the Britiſh cannon ſunk into ſilence, and the ſtorm expanded into a calm; but before I could accompliſh this deſirable object, I found this work, ſwelled beyond its intended limits. I cannot, however, omit this opportunity of my ſincere thanks to my ſubſcribers, through the medium of whoſe favour I have been enabled to preſent this feeble production to a generous public, and ſhall feel myſelf amply repaid, ſhould any one of my readers, inſtructed by my misfortunes, be enabled to avoid thoſe ſhelves and rocks on which I have been ſo often thrown by my imprudence.

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

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THE object of every writer ought to be either to inſtruct or improve, and he is the happieſt who excels in the combination of both, or, as the Poet expreſſes it,

——— He only hits the white
Who mixes profit with delight.

How far I have purſued this deſirable object throughout the following ſheets, muſt be left to the indulgence of the candid reader; guided only by the torch of truth,

it is my intention to relate facts ſimply as they occurred. I have borrowed nothing from the wardrobe of fiction, I have extenuated nought, nor ſet down aught in malice; the favours I have received, and what fortune did not put in my power to return, I have repaid in gratitude, ſtill keeping in mind the old maxim, *De mortuis nil niſi bonum*. To detain the reader no longer, I ſhall begin.

My father was deſcended from a very reſpectable family in Ireland. In the early part of his life he left that kingdom, and paid a viſit to Boſton in New England, where, after a ſhort time, he led my mother to the altar; her maiden name was Clapham, ſiſter of Colonel Clapham, a provincial officer of conſiderable note, and proprietor of the Saw-mills at Halifax. I was the only pledge of that union, and firſt ſaw the light in Boſton, on the 17th of April, 1739. My father purſued the buſineſs of a Wine Merchant in an extenſive line: ſcarce had I attained my third year, when he paid the debt of nature;

nature; and, if he did not leave a plentiful fortune behind him, he left a reputation without ſpot or ſtain; a good life is the beſt epitaph. Such was the affection of my mother, that I ſcarce felt the loſs of ſo dear a parent. I was immediately placed under proper tutors, by whom I was inſtructed in my native language, French, and muſic; at the age of thirteen, I was admitted at Cambridge, about eight miles from my natal city, where I remained two years. It is needleſs to ſay any thing of the progreſs I made in my academic ſtudies; it is generally obſerved, that the youthful mind, in general, revolts at the idea of being tied down to the dry didactic rules of ſyllogiſtic reaſon; to be candid, I did not waſte much of the midnight oil. Much about this time, Mr. Hallam arrived in Boſton with his dramatic *Corps;* but the Diſſenters in that city, ſuch was the ſeverity of their manners, would not permit him either to tread in the ſock or the buſkin. A number of gentlemen, however, ſubſcribed to a concert in the town-hall, for the benefit of Mrs. Storer; I was

numbered in the band, as I occaſionally played on the violin, vaux-humane, and German flute, which, in my leiſure moments, I had practiſed at college.

One of the Miſs Hallams (ſiſter to the preſent Mrs. Mattocks, of Covent garden theatre) very much attracted my attention; to an elegant perſon, ſhe added all thoſe gentle virtues which elevate the human mind, together with the ſofter accompliſhments that adorn it.

The Company thence proceeded to Rhode Iſland, where, as often as opportunity indulged, I paid them a viſit, and numbered thoſe moments only in life, which I paſſed in the company of Miſs Hallam. The Company at length embarked for Barbadoes; and leſt I ſhould awaken the ſuſpicion of my mother and friends, I did not think it prudent to accompany them, but repaired to Philadelphia, where I ſailed in the firſt veſſel for that iſland, and was received by the manager with all that cordiality which ever

ever marked his character: and, as my inclination led me to the ſtage, he was not without hopes I might appear to advantage on the boards, as well as in the orcheſtra. In the courſe of a few days, I ſtudied the part of George Barnwell, which I afterwards performed, with no ſmall degree of approbation; though I yet tremble, when I recollect the diffidence with which I appeared on a public ſtage for the firſt time, before a crowded audience, not leſs indulgent than judicious. Colonel Dowling, a gentleman of the iſland, happened to be preſent at the repreſentation; he knew my family, waited on me, and invited me to dine with him the next day at his houſe. In the courſe of converſation, he advanced every argument in his power to divert my inclination from the ſtage, repreſenting it as a profeſſion neither favoured by public ſentiment, nor protected by the legiſlature, precarious in the purſuit, and ſubject to the caprice of popular taſte. He therefore adviſed me neither to be enamoured by the ſmiles of Thalia, nor yet by the tears of Melpomene, but return

to my diſconſolate mother, whoſe maternal affections he painted with ſuch lively colours, that made a great impreſſion on me for the moment; I thanked him for his advice, but candidly told him, that I could not prevail on myſelf to return: He then aſſured me, that if I would relinquiſh the ſtage, that he would exert his intereſt to provide for me in a manner ſuitable to my connexions and education; I liſtened at length to his propoſition, and very ſoon after he introduced me to Captain Tyrrel, of his Majeſty's ſhip Buckingham, of 74 guns, who ſhipped me as midſhipman. We ſailed on a cruiſe in company with his Majeſty's ſhips the Falkland, Briſtol, and Cambridge, off Martinico. We chaſed ſome French privateers into Grandance-bay, and our ſhip only, ran under the fort, where we came to an anchor, brought with ſprings on our cables, and engaged the fort till we ſilenced it. Having manned and armed the pinnace, cutter, and barge, I was midſhipman of the latter: We rowed under Pidgeon Iſland Fort, cut out two brigs, a ſchooner, and a ſnow privateer.

I boarded

I boarded the brig, cut her cable, and ſwang under the battery clear of its guns. We were warmly fired at by ſmall arms from the ſhore, and the man who rowed the ſtroke oar, had both his eyes ſcooped out by a muſket ball, and the cockſwain received a wound in his left arm; I alſo received a wound in the top of my head, but from the heat and hurry of boarding, I did not feel it at the time. The two known to be wounded, were left in the ſtern ſheets of the boat, which towed after us until we got out of reach of the fort guns; there I found my jacket, which was nankeen, very bloody, and on putting my hand to the top of my head, I felt a ſoreneſs, and my hair all clotted; the wounded men and myſelf went on board our own ſhip the Buckingham, and when ſearched by Mr. Valentine, our ſurgeon, my ſkull proved to be fractured by a muſket ball. I was trepanned: in a few days after, we arrived at Carliſle Bay, Barbadoes, and joined Commodore Moore's ſquadron. I went on ſhore to ſick quarters; the two pinnace men and ſixteen more who

were wounded in the action, were ſent to the hoſpital. The Commodore's ſurgeon, and the gentlemen of the faculty belonging to the hoſpital and fleet, found in the trepanning, ſome ſhort hairs had got in amongſt the brain :——The wound was opened, and with a forceps the ſmall hairs picked out. This operation brought on a violent fever, ſo that my life was deſpaired of by the phyſicians, who gave ſtrict orders to the nurſe (a black woman) not to let me have any thing ſtrong to drink ; nothing but weak chicken broth or water gruel. Theſe orders created in me a great deſire to have ſome punch :— There was a marine centinal to attend me, who was relieved every two hours ; in the abſence of the nurſe, I deſired the centinal to go to the punch-houſe, and fetch me a piſtareen's worth, which he refuſed, as being contrary to his orders. I gave him a dollar, and requeſted him to bring me the punch, and he might keep the change, (being four piſtareens ;) it was a tempting ſum to a marine! He endeavoured to diſſuade me from my intention, ſaying, he

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was ſure it would kill me. I prevailed on him, by ſaying, if it killed me, the dead could tell no tales, and if I lived, I would handſomely reward him. He brought me a piſtareen's worth, which is more than half-a-crown's worth in England; though I never before drank half-a-pint at a time, I ſwallowed it with the greateſt avidity. In a few moments, I fell into a profound ſleep, and, when I awoke, I found myſelf ſo much refreſhed, that I began to reflect on my ſituation; a thouſand images ruſhed on my imagination, but young as I was, I had ſufficient knowledge of human nature, to ſelect the moſt pleaſing, and to amuſe myſelf with them: In a few days, I found myſelf ſo far recovered, that I was able to walk about. In a ſhort time, the Buckingham ſailed with a fleet of merchantmen, under convoy to England, to a certain latitude. A ſchooner privateer came into the bay from Boſton; I was well acquainted with the Captain; it is eaſier to conceive than paint our mutual joy on meeting; I had experienced his good nature, and the enemy had often experienced his courage,

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it did not require much ſalt-water eloquence to prevail on me to accompany him in a ſhort cruiſe; as there was no vacancy for any official birth, but that of a ſurgeon's mate, I ſhipped myſelf in that ſituation, without ſo much as once reflecting on the conſequence. We had ſailed about three days, when we fell in with a French privateer of equal force, with whom we had a ſmart engagement. Night coming on, put an end to the conteſt; we had three men killed, and ſeveral wounded; of the latter it was thought proper to amputate the limbs of three. Unhappily for the patients, the ſurgeon was as ignorant of thoſe matters as myſelf, he had been bred as a wood-cutter in America, and thought as little of chopping off a leg or an arm, as he would of cutting off the branch of a tree; as he was entirely unſkilled in anatomy, two of them bled to death, the third recovered; but it is needleſs to ſay, that he was not indebted for it to the ſurgeon, who nevertheleſs aſſumed the merit of it. The next morning, we fell in with a privateer of ſuperior force, to which we were

obliged

obliged to ſtrike, after an obſtinate engagement. The French ſurgeon evinced the greateſt humanity and ſkill in his profeſſion. I think I never ſaw one in his line handle a knife with greater adroitneſs; and ſuch was the ſucceſs of his operations, that, in a ſhort time, the wounded were in a fair way of recovery. In a few days, we were re-taken by the Antigua brig, commanded by Captain Ennis, formerly our firſt lieutenant on board the Buckingham. She was one of the veſſels we had cut out at Martinico, and the very one on which I was wounded. She was put in commiſſion by Commodore Moore. I remained on board the brig until the Buckingham had returned; ſhe was hove down in Antigua, I was happy to reſume my old birth aboard her. We were ordered for a cruiſe off Martinique, in company with the Weeſel ſloop of war, and the Briſtol of fifty guns; the latter did not immediately join us, but was expected in a few days ſo to do. I think it was on the third of November, I was appointed midſhipman, and ſtationed at the maſt head; We had not been long

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at ſea, when I obſerved a large fleet, of which I informed the lieutenant of the watch. The marine drum beat to arms in concert with our hearts, and in a ſhort time the ſhip was cleared fore and aft for action. When the fleet came nearer to our view, we thought we ſaw a firſt-rate, and two fifty guns, beſides frigates; a ſhort council was held between the captain and lieutenants, when Captain Tyrrel came forward to the barricado on the quarter deck, and calling all hands, deſcribed the force of the enemy, at the concluſion of which, he wiſhed to know if it was agreeable to one and all to engage them; adding that he had great hopes that the Briſtol would come to our aſſiſtance, as ſoon as the report of the guns reached her, which muſt be the reſult, as it was ſuppoſed at the time he was ſpeaking, that ſhe could not be far diſtant, and that the Weaſel might protect the merchantmen under convoy. The anſwer muſt be anticipated by every Briton, which was crowned with three chears, and the banners of blood ſoon ſtreamed on air. Captain Trag, of the marines, took his

faithful

faithful ſtand by the colours, with a cocked piſtol in his hand, declaring that the contents of it ſhould be lodged in the firſt man that would attempt to ſtrike them to the enemy, and if carried away by a ſhot, there was another ready to ſupply its place. The merchantmen hove to, whilſt the Floriſante, a ſeventy-four, and two frigates, bore down upon us. The Floriſante poured a broadſide into us, to which we did not think proper at the time to return the compliment: one of the frigates poured a broadſide likewiſe, which killed and wounded ſeveral men; at the ſame time Captain Tyrrel had two fingers ſhot off his right hand, and was, after much entreaty, prevailed on to go to the cockpit to have his wound dreſſed; in that interval, the command of the ſhip was committed to Mr. Marſhal, our firſt lieutenant, who, whilſt he dropped on his knees abaft the binnacle to pray, had his head ſhot off by a ball that happened to paſs that way. In conſequence of this accident, the command devolved on Mr. Knot, the ſecond lieutenant, who did not fail to give

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the moſt ſignal proofs of courage. He fought the Floriſante ſo cloſe, that our bowſprit got foul of her fore-rigging; the forecaſtle men were employed in cutting it away, ſo that in a few minutes we were quite clear; our ſtern ladders were down, occaſioned I ſuppoſe, from the halyards being cut away. One of the frigates having ranged herſelf under our counter, boarded us, at the ſame time raked us fore and aft; in conſequence of which, we loſt more men than in the whole engagement. The ſecond frigate thought to follow the example of the firſt, but we gave a yaw, brought our larboard guns to bear, and ſent her in an inſtant to viſit the "ſecrets of the hoary deep". Several of the hands who boarded us were tumbled down the hatchway, and we could have ſent more to have kept them company, but humanity called on us for aſſiſtance, and it was immediately directed in picking up as many as we could of thoſe that had ſunk with the frigate.

At the very inſtant, a ſhoal of ſharks made their appearance, and devoured a number of thoſe unhappy people in our preſence, though we exerted every nerve to ſnatch them from their devouring jaws. We re-loaded our larboard guns, collected the wounded in the cockpit, and hove thoſe that expired in defence of their king and country into their native element, according to honeſt Paddy Blake. I had been ſtationed on the lower gun deck, but was ordered on the gangway, to paſs the word in the room of the midſhipman, who had been juſt numbered with the dead. To be very candid, I was not quite ſo proud of my birth, as the hurry and buſtle below diverted the mind a little; but the ſituation in which I was juſt placed had a different effect. In the firſt place, I could ſcarcely hear the word, I was ſo deafened between decks with the noiſe of the guns; and in the next place, I did not know how ſoon I ſhould be ſeen named to ſleep in *Davy's Locker*.

The ſignal was given that the captain was wounded, and that the firſt lieutenant had fallen, when Captain Boles, of the Weaſel, hoiſted out his boat and came aboard of us, to take the command of the veſſel; Mr. Knot refuſed to deliver it up, warm words enſued, and it is not eaſy to ſay, what would have been the conſequence, had not Captain Tyrrel interpoſed. The captain reprimanded Mr. Boles in very ſharp language, on which he repaired to his veſſel again.

Captain Tyrrel's wounds being dreſſed, he immediately reſumed the command; we engaged the Floraſante five glaſſes, at the end of which, night coming on, ſhe thought proper to ſheer off; we were ſuch a wreck, we could ſcarce work our way into Saint John's, Antigua, with both hand and chain pumps conſtantly going.

Captain Tyrrel, his officers and people, were received with open arms by the inhabitants. The captain paid a viſit to his eſtate,

eſtate, which was a very conſiderable one. His hoſpitality was unbounded, and will be long remembered by the natives of that iſland. The ſhip was ordered to Engliſh harbour to be repaired. It is ſcarce poſſible to paint the joy that ſhone in my countenance. As ſoon as the engagement was over, nothing was to be heard but mutual congratulations; yet at the moment the eye ſhone with joy, the tear ſtole down the cheeks, as the laſt tribute to the memory of thoſe that had juſt expired in the arms of victory. Having emptied a few cans of grog, we went on ſhore, in the ſame rigging with which we had fought, covered with the blood of our friends and our enemies.——

We all agreed to drown our cares in a ſparkling bowl of punch; every glaſs was crowned with the name of ſome favourite nymph, and the interval filled with ſalt-water jokes.——A diſpute at length, unhappily, took place betwixt the ſurgeon's mate, and a lieutenant of marines, which ended in a duel. Mr. Lancet—as I wiſh

to call him by that name, was an ancient Briton, had all his genealogy by heart; which he took great delight in repeating, and for the mere ſake of brevity, uſed always to begin at Adam, had the misfortune to wound his amphibious antagoniſt, who happened to be an Hibernian, and, I am ſorry to add, that the wound proved mortal. The *Hibernian* forgave the Cambrian, and ſaid he was content to die, as he had fallen by the hands of a gentleman, and, what was more, as he would expire in the bed of honour. Matters being thus circumſtanced, to prevent the conſequences of a court-martial, as I was the principal evidence, Captain Tyrrel, who ſaw the deep diſtreſs of the ſurvivor's mind, gave me a purſe of thirty guineas, with a note to Captain Baſton, of the Litchfield, who was bound to England, with a fleet under his convoy. The ſurgeon alſo procured his diſcharge, and we had each of us letters recommendatory to Old England, of which I had heard ſo much, and which of all things I longed to ſee.

We made the beſt of our way to Saint Kitt's, in a ſhugg or dogger, and when we reached that iſland, we found a conſiderable ſum offered for the run home; the doctor and I agreed to equip ourſelves with jackets and trowſers, and after which, we immediately ſhipped ourſelves; the doctor as an ordinary ſeamen, for fifteen guineas the run, and one pound of tobacco, a pound of ſugar, and a gallon of rum, for each pound in caſh, agreeably to the cuſtom of the place at the time. I ſhipped as able ſeaman, and had thirty pounds, with a proportion of tobacco, ſugar, &c.

We had not been long at ſea, before we found a jealouſy ſubſiſted amongſt the ſeamen, becauſe they found that we had more wages per month than they. In the courſe of the paſſage, a gale of wind ſprung up, and, as the doctor was found incapable of doing duty aloft, he was ordered to wield a ladle, whilſt the cook did his duty before the maſt. The ſecond mate was in the ſame watch with me; he was an artful villain, and took every opportu-

nity of impoſing more duty on me, than I was entitled from my ſituation to do.—

One day when my watch-mates were down below, he ordered me to work at the ſpinning winch, which I refuſed; he ſaid he would report me; I told him I would work with my watch-mates only, or when all hands were ordered on deck, and declared, if he attempted to ſtrike me, I would ſtave in his brains with the hand-ſpike, if he had any, which I added by way of parentheſis; for which purpoſe I jumped upon the forecaſtle, with the hand-ſpike in my hand, and continued to dare him for ſome time, as my countenance and tone of voice convinced him I was in earneſt, and that I was not to be intimidated by his threats; he did not think proper to provoke me. In a ſhort time after I fell aſleep, when he and ſome of his fore-maſt men ſeized me, and thruſt me under the half-deck in double irons, where I continued ſeveral days on a biſcuit a day, and a ſhort allowance of water. My honeſt meſſmate, who, as the gods would have it,

had

had been ſo lately metamorphoſed from a ſurgeon into a cook, did not forget me; ſcarce a night paſſed that he did not contrive to convey me a ſavoury morſel. In this ſituation I began to reflect, I believe, for the firſt time in my life. I thought of the ſhepherd in the fable, who was tempted to quit his flocks and the quiet vale for the ſea, as he once viewed the "level brine" from the ſhore. My mother, and the ſweet moments that I paſſed away under the ſhade of academic bowers, heightened by the lovely figure of Miſs Hallam, that was ſtill preſent to my imagination, ruſhed upon my mind, and ſweetened my ſlumbers, when I ſunk into them. I uſed to reflect, however, on what my old ſchoolmaſter uſed to ſay—

"Hæc ſatis in guſtu."

A briſk gale happened to ſpring up, ſo that on account of the ſafety of the ſhip they were obliged to liberate me; "It's an ill wind," as the proverb ſays, "that blows nobody good." How little did they ſuppoſe we were men of war's officers, or they would have hove the log with us.

When we made the land's end off England, the ſhip's crew was muſtered, and ſo caſt lots to ſee who ſhould ſtand the deck, or who ſhould be ſecreted from being preſſed by men of war's boats off Scilly; the wind ſhifted to the S. S. E. ſo that all the fleet came to anchor in Falmouth roads; we came to within hale of the Prince, a ninety gun ſhip, then commanded by Thomas Graves, Eſq; in the hurry of coming to anchor, and while they were clearing decks, I jumped down below, ſhifting my rigging from that of a foremaſt man, to that of a midſhipman of the navy, and to the confuſion of our enemies on board, hailed the Prince; an officer immediately came on board, and took every man, the captain, chief mate, and ſteward excepted, put King's men on board to work her round, as the doctor and I had men put in our room; the caſh was ordered to be paid us, which we received, by bills at ſight, on merchants in London, to whom the ſhip belonged. My curioſity was raiſed on tiptoe, to viſit the emporium of the Britiſh empire, of which

which I had read and heard ſo much. The immenſe population of the city, the magnificence of its buildings, the richneſs of its ſhops, and the beauty of the ladies that led ambroſial lives, and breathed the purer air of the weſt end of the town, ſcarce permitted my imagination to repoſe; but the theatres, above all, filled my mind with the higheſt hopes of being fully gratified. The doctor and I having ſettled our affairs with all the diſpatch imaginable, ſet out for London, in the ſituation of Archer and Aimwell, in the Beaux Stratagem.

When we arrived in London, we went to deliver our letters of recommendation to the parties to whom they were directed, who were ſea officers, particularly mine, to Admiral Saunders and Commodore Keppel, but I found they were both at ſea. We had not our pay liſts from the Buchingham, therefore could not draw our pay, (as petty officers were paid out but once in three years) we formed acquaintances, who ſoon initiated us into the expenſive

pleaſures of the city, without the leaſt idea of œconomy, ſo that we ſoon diſſipated the money we received for our run from the Weſt Indies; my medical chum, when our l'argent had expired of a rapid conſumption, left me, and went to his friends in Wales. Having no friend to apply to, I attended the 'Change for a birth at ſea, when I met Captain Forſter, belonging to the port of Briſtol, with whom I ſhipped myſelf ſecond mate of his ſhip for Africa; in a few days we went down to Briſtol in the ſtage-coach, where we found the veſſel ready for ſea; I repaired on board; we dropped down to Kings road, and in the courſe of a week, we ſailed; when we arrived at Goree, our ſurgeon was taken violently ill with a flux, as was many of the crew.——The doctor died at Winoby, where we took in ſeveral ſlaves, and completed our cargo at Cape Coaſt. From my having mentioned my acting as ſurgeon in a privateer in the Weſt Indies, I was fixed on to act as doctor of our ſhip. We took in our wood and water at the iſland of Saint Thomas, under the line; more

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by good fortune than any ſkill of mine, we had but one ſlave died out of two hundred and ten, although we had four women pregnant, three of whom were delivered on their paſſage, and did well. I had agreed for one ſlave, as mate of the ſhip, but, upon being dubb'd doctor, I had two more; one was a boy near ten years old; I found him remarkably tractable; I began to inſtruct him in Engliſh, French, and to play the violin and French horn, all of which he improved in very much. The ſhip and cargo were ſold in Antigua; my two grown ſlaves I ſold there, but kept my boy, to whom I had given the name of Ranger, from the very great ſucceſs which attended my trip in the medical line. I had ſeveral lucrative offers to go as ſurgeon again to the coaſt, but conſcious of inabilities in that line, I refuſed, and took my paſſage in an armed ſhip to Guadaloupe, at which time the iſland was under capitulation. From the circumſtances attending the duel laſt year in Antigua, between the ſurgeon's mate and marine officer, and ſome of his Majeſty's ſhips frequently coming into the road,

road, I engaged my paſſage in a Dutch ſhip, bound to Amſterdam. Before we ſailed, an unfortunate fracas, happened in a very ſtrange manner :——A tranſport put in there, with convicts from Ireland ; curioſity led me, with ſeveral others, to go on board ; a remarkable handſome faced girl, one of the convicts, was taken notice of by the viſitors, amongſt whom was an officer in the army ; the young woman declared, ſhe was innocent of the crime ſhe was tranſported for, that her maſter in Ireland, endeavoured to ſeduce her, but on refuſing to comply with his deſires, he conveyed a ſilver ſpoon, and other articles of value, into her box, which being opened by the proper officers, and the goods being found, ſhe was tried and tranſported ; ſeveral Engliſh officers in Guadaloupe then wanted houſekeepers, ſo they each put in ten piſtoles, and agreed to take the dice from the backgammon table, and that the higheſt throw ſhould win her ; ſhe was won by the military officer, who gave a treat on the occaſion ; her under rigging he did not mind, but purchaſed her a pink ſattin cardinal,

cardinal, and a new hat; ſhe was placed at the head of the table. There were ſeveral of the French officers under capitulation, who ſupped in the ſame houſe, in the room juſt over our heads; by ſome accident, ſome water fell from their room, through the creviſes of the boards (there being no ceiling in that country) on the lady's new rigging, which was warmly reſented by the happy gentleman who had won the prize; he inſiſted on their aſking pardon, which they refuſed, but aſſured him it was merely accidental; they ſaid, they could not give ſatisfaction with the ſword, as they were not allowed to wear any, being under capitulation; unfortunately, an Engliſh gentleman lent his ſword to the French officer, who, whilſt he was performing the uſual compliment of his country, the Engliſh gentleman run him through the body with his ſword, up to the hilt of it, of which wound, he inſtantly died. After this melancholy accident, we ſailed, *January* 1760, in company with a fleet of 120 veſſels under convoy, which all ſailed us out of ſight in forty hours,

hours, owing to our veſſel being ſo unwieldy Dutch built, 1300 tons burthen, and deep, that we could ſeldom wear or ſtay; we were three months on our paſſage from Guadaloupe to the Downs, we had ſeveral paſſengers of different nations on board, which occaſioned our time to paſs imperceptibly away, as we exerted our abilities to make each other happy; we had ſome Hamburgh ladies, who ſung very well, four gentlemen who played different inſtruments, beſides me and my boy, and being in a neutral veſſel, we were under no apprehenſion of being taken by an enemy. One of our paſſengers was a Captain Delbourg, of the Swediſh navy, who gave me an invitation to go with him to Stockholm, where, if I choſe to accept of a commiſſion in the ſervice, he would be bound to procure me one, as he then had a frigate ready for ſea, and bound for the Mediterranean. From the eaſy and polite diſpoſition I perceived in him in the paſſage, and ſtrongly prompted by variety, I went with him to Stockholm, where I obtained a commiſſion as ſecond lieutenant

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in his ſhip; and in the interval, partook of every pleaſure the place afforded, as we ſtaid but three weeks, being obliged to ſail ſoon in the ſpring. When we arrived at Gibraltar, I delivered my recommendatory letters from Captain Tyrrel to Admiral Saunders, who was then ſtationed there, with command of the fleet; I informed him my commiſſion in the ſervice I was then in, was but temporary, and if he thought proper to give me a ſituation, I would relinquiſh my preſent one, on giving Captain Delbourg timely notice to provide an officer in my room. The Admiral informed me, that by Captain Tyrrel's letter, he underſtood, I was ſtill on the Buckingham's books, with leave of abſence, but that he ſoon would have occaſion for me to command an armed xebeck to attend the fleet, for which he found, by Captain Tyrrel's letter, I was capable, and as I ſhould have an acting commiſſion, it might be a means of ſpeedily promoting me in the navy. Captain Delbourg's orders were for a ſhort cruiſe of ſpeculation in the Mediterranean, and to

return

return to Stockholm before the Baltic ſea ſhould be ſhut in for the winter; ſo that the Admiral gave me permiſſion to finiſh the cruiſe, and return to Stockholm, there to reſign my commiſſion, and join his fleet, if the war continued, if not, adviſed me to continue in the ſervice I was then in, in caſe of peace with England; and if at any other time, war ſhould break out, he would render me every ſervice in his power, from the recommendation of his friend Captain Tyrrel. We then ſailed up the Mediterranean, in company with a Dutch man of war of ſixty-four guns; we had moſt delightful weather in theſe ſtraits; we enjoyed a round of pleaſures, particularly at Venice, where we had the good fortune to be preſent at the wedding of the Doge of Venice; with the Adriatic ſea, the grandeur of this ſpectacle, which has been ſo often deſcribed, that I ſhall omit mentioning, but it is really beyond conception for magnificence and ſplendour. At Algiers, I fell into a diſagreeable piece of buſineſs;—at a public ordinary in a Daniſh tavern, we were at dinner, forty

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in number; I was the only Engliſhman (for ſo I conſidered myſelf) in company; when the cloth was withdrawn, the converſation ran on the bravery of different nations, particularly of the French—I muſt here beg leave to obſerve, that out of the forty at table, there were twenty-eight French; they were boaſting that one French ſhip, ſhould engage and capture three Engliſh veſſels of equal force each, and ſo on in proportion to men; that one was equal to three Engliſhmen, as gentlemen, but not as bears; I could not help obſerving to them, that as I was but one Engliſhman to twenty-eight of them, it was not a mark of their courage, to make uſe of ſuch aſſertions in ſo violent a manner; and to convince them of their miſtake, I would engage the beſt of them: Words ariſing to a conſiderable heighth, I ſent my boy (Ranger) on board, for a ſmall caſe of piſtols, which were at my cabin's head, ordered him to give them to our gunner to load and prime, and to bring them to me, all of which he did undiſcovered; they ſaid there was a guard-

marine,

marine, a boy amongſt them, who ſhould fight me, or the beſt Engliſhman in the Mediterranean; I made the remark, that if the guard-marine (which is what we call a midſhipman in the Britiſh navy) was the beſt man amongſt them, I would fight him without ſeconds, locked up in a room, which was agreed upon; the rooms in Algiers, are as ſtrong as priſons; and when we were in, I took care to double bolt it on the inſide, we ſtripped, and in a few thruſts, carte and tierce, he wounded me in the hip-bone, I then immediately flew to my piſtols, and offered him one, which he refuſed. On this, with the piſtol in my left hand, and the ſword, I attacked him with ſuch ſucceſs, that he cried out luſtily, but did not meddle with a piſtol; his brother officers endeavoured to break in, but to no purpoſe: At this juncture, Captain Delbourg and the Dutch Captain, who had juſt returned from dining at the Dutch Conſul's, entered the tavern, and being informed of the circumſtance, propoſed a truce with the French officers, and in the end were lucky enough to ſucceed;

ſucceed; at their requeſt, I opened the door; my wound was immediately dreſſed, and, for the few days that we remained at Algiers, we met at the ſame houſe, apparently on good terms. We ſailed up the Levant, in company with the Dutch man of war, touched at ſeveral iſlands in the Archipelago, which, if convenient, I ſhould have ſurveyed with pleaſure, as the proſpect was delicious. Many of them were infeſted with pirates of different nations. We put into Meſſina. I had read of the celebrated cobler of that place, but found the natives knew very little of their patriotic countryman. I went with Captain Dolbourg to Floretta Camioal; I obſerved that all theſe countries ſwarmed with pilgrims from different countries, who hoped to expiate their offences, or to purchaſe a good birth in heaven, by viſiting the ſhrine of ſome relict; who, if ſtripped of the long robe of hypocriſy, or, to uſe the ſublimer language of Milton, if touched with the ſpear of Ithuriel, would ſtart into their native deformity:—Good heaven! when

will the reign of ſuperſtition and ignorance be over? In Conſtantinople, we took in every neceſſary for our voyage. It is needleſs for me to detain the reader with an account of this city;—the proſpect on entering it, is magnificent; perhaps, there is no nation ſo much mixed as that of the Turks, yet there is one characteriſtic feature, an air of dignity; and in general, you will meet with the full eye, and the bull neck. The Greeks are held in the moſt ſovereign contempt by them, and I have ſeen them treated by the Turks with a degree of indignity and cruelty, that often kindled my indignation. Having, as I have already ſaid, laid in every neceſſary for our voyage, in order to return to Sweden, we took a cruiſe of fourteen days in the Black ſea, in the courſe of which, we met with a ſtrong eaſterly wind, known in that quarter, by the name of *à Levanter*. We put into Leghorn, which I need ſcarce inform the reader, is a free port. As it abounds with numerous beauties, natural as well as artificial, which, I was very

anxious

anxious to ſurvey; to attempt to deſcribe one, would only inſpire curioſity, which, at this diſtance of time, I am ſure I could not gratify; I ſhall only juſt obſerve, that the bridge is built in ſuch a manner, as to produce an extraordinary echo; the beautiful river Arno, which flows in almoſt every Italian ſong, glides beneath this bridge. During my ſtay in that enchanting part of the univerſe, I availed myſelf of every opportunity to ſail to the ſofteſt ſounds of muſic, on its ſilver waves; and, if any thing added to the pleaſures of the moment, on that occaſion, it was to reflect, that the immortal Milton had ſailed on the ſame river before me. My boy Ranger, was now become very uſeful to me, and was much noticed by the natives, and the company in general; he was docile, attentive, and grateful: Several perſons of quality wiſhed to purchaſe him, and offered any money for him.—— The poor fellow was ſenſible of theſe offers, and my refuſal, and I could read that affection in his eye, which his

tongue was unable to expreſs. One evening, I went to a Feſtino and maſquerade, given by Sir John Dick, the Britiſh conſul in that port; I was highly charmed with this ſpecies of amuſement, which was the firſt of the kind I had ever ſeen; and, though I was not acquainted with the Italian language, yet there was ſo much ſprightlineſs in the characters, and ſuch a variety, that my curioſity was highly intereſted. The maſks began to withdraw about eight o'clock in the morning. I got to my lodgings, and after ſuch a diſſipation of ſpirits, ſoon ſunk into the arms of ſleep. The god of ſlumbers did not think proper to releaſe me out of his ſoft captivity, till the clock ſtruck twelve, when I awakened with the moſt excruciating pain in my foot; and, in the courſe of a few hours, I was deprived of the uſe of my limbs. In this ſituation, my torments were ſomewhat ſoothed, by the viſits of ſeveral ladies, from whoſe eyes I had more to dread than from the pain, which I bore with all the apathy of a ſtoic.

Several

Several Engliſh and Italian gentlemen did me the favour of calling. I was informed by my phyſicians, that I was viſited by the gout; I aſſured them, I was much obliged to them for their viſits, but that I could have diſpenſed with that gentleman's; and that if really it was the gout, it muſt be a perjured one, for according to Sir Roger L'Eſtrange, it ſwore it would only viſit the rich, and that I was pretty certain, it miſtook me at the maſquerade, and that it was in purſuit of ſome prince or duke, in that aſſemblage; and that as ſoon as it diſcovered its miſtake, it would bid me, I hoped, a long farewel. To be a little ſerious, I told them, that could not be my diſeaſe, as I thought it would not pay me a viſit, at ſo early a period of life, independent of my temperate mode of living; but they aſſured me, that was not always the caſe, that many perſons, much younger than I, and as temperate, experienced it; but that it was a very jealous viſitant, and did not wiſh that any other ſhould take lodgings in the

ſame apartment. General Santepelard, General of Marines, belonging to the grand Duke of Tuſcany, in whoſe dominions we were at the time, and who had been very much afflicted with the ſame diſtemper, invited me to his houſe, in the politeſt manner, informing me, at the ſame time, that he had a machine chair, and other apparatus of eaſe, which were entirely at my ſervice: I accepted the General's kind invitation, and was conveyed thither; for ſeveral days I was not able to get in or out of bed. My boy Ranger paid ſo much attention to me, that I ſhall never forget his kindneſs; he could not be prevailed upon to quit my room, but lay on a carpet at the foot of my bed; and when I began to recover, he uſed to wheel me in a machine chair about the garden, which was laid out by the hand of taſte, and abounded with all the beauties of the flowery race. Triſtram Shandy very juſtly ſays, if you crumple the jacket, you crumple the lining alſo. Such is the ſympathy betwixt the mind and the body, that

that I could think of nothing, during my illneſs, but the polite and unaffected attention of the General, who ſympathized in my ſituation, and the affection of my faithful ſervant. Amongſt the number of viſitors who honoured me on that occaſion, was an Iriſh gentleman, a Colonel of Brigades; his viſits were frequent, and his pleaſantry inexhauſtible. One day, as the company were dwelling with rapture on the pictureſque beauties of the Arno, and the delightful ſcenes in the vicinity, one of the gentlemen happened to mention the remarkable echo near the fine bridge that is thrown acroſs that river: Colonel Blake inſiſted, that it was not to be compared to an echo in his father's garden, in the ſweet country of Tipperary; for, ſaid he, when I entered the garden, I uſed to ſay by myſelf, how do you echo? She uſed to anſwer, very well, I thank you; how do you Mr. Paddy? The good humour, perſonal bravery, eccentricities, and riſible bulls of this gentleman, are already ſo

well known, that it is needless to repeat them here.

As Captain Dolbourg was at this time ready for ſea, and wiſhed to ſail for Sweden, I thought I ſhould have been left behind. The Marine General, under whoſe hoſpitable roof I had received ſo many favours, entreated me to make myſelf quite eaſy on that head; and, in order to remove my inquietude, aſſured me, that, if I choſe, I ſhould immediately be appointed ſecond in command aboard one of the Duke's galleys, adding, that in a ſhort time, I might venture to promiſe myſelf, that I ſhould have the ſole command. I thanked him in the warmeſt language of which I was capable, aſſured him, that I was highly ſenſible of the diſtinguiſhed favour he propoſed, but, at the ſame time, wiſhed to finiſh my cruiſe with Captain Dolbourg, as I flattered myſelf, that I ſhould ſee my friends once more at Stockholm; and beſides, I wiſhed to ſee a little more of London, before I ſhould join Admiral Saunder's

Saunder's fleet in the Mediterranean. As the circle of my acquaintance in Leghorn was, by this time, rather numerous, natives, as well as Engliſh, I loſt no time in taking leave of them; it was, indeed, with much reluctance that I parted with the General, his lady, and daughters; the mother was a very accompliſhed lady, and ſuperintended the education of her fair offspring; they ſpoke their native language with the greateſt correctneſs, and, as to muſic, as often as the trembling ſtrings "crowded round their fingers," they brought, as Milton expreſſes, "all heaven before my eyes." I had not quite got rid of my gout, and I found myſelf ſo ill, that I was obliged to be ſwung on board by a chair: We ſoon weighed anchor, and, in a few days, I got rid entirely of my gout. We came to anchor in Gibraltar bay, where we were obliged to perform quarantine, as we came from the Levant, which was, undoubtedly, a mortifying circumſtance to me, to view my old acquaintances walking

ing on ſhore, and that I could not ſhake them by the hand, much leſs converſe with them, particularly a couple of females, with whom I had formed an acquaintance within the ſtraits. By the magical aid of a taliſman, ycleped in plain Engliſh, a moidore, which I ſlipped into the hand of one of the boatmen, I had a letter delivered to one of them, requeſting her to come on board, 'till the end of our forty days penance; ſhe ſpeedily informed me by her anſwer, that however willing ſhe might be to gratify my requeſt, it could not be done on any account, and, that if I attempted to come on ſhore, the firſt perſon that ſaw me, might ſhoot me with impunity, like a mad dog. Notwithſtanding all this, I prevailed on the Captain to let me have a boat to convey me to the Spaniſh ſide, about twelve Engliſh miles from the Engliſh ſide, in which I ſucceeded, without the knowledge of the Dons.—By this means I got over the Spaniſh lines, and arrived, without any let or moleſtation, inſide the garriſon, about one o'clock

o'clock in the morning. When I approached the houſe of my female friend, I found ſhe was to have a rout the preceding evening, but that moſt of the company had retired. I repaired immediately to a Geneveſe Wine-houſe, whence I wrote my miſtreſs a few lines, informing her of my ſituation, and wiſhed to be ſecreted under her roof till the next night: accordingly, as the invention of the fair is allowed to be very quick, ſhe ſoon contrived that I ſhould ſlip up the back ſtairs unperceived by any but love. Her footman was a ſoldier, and had a perfect knowledge of me; the maid was a Spaniard, and, as I had behaved with ſome degree of generoſity to her, I was not very apprehenſive on her part; yet, I muſt confeſs, that I remained in ſome degree of anxiety till the approach of the enſuing night, under whoſe covert I contrived, like many a brave general, to make my retreat. I paſſed the lines, got again into Spain, and went into a houſe in Algaziers, or Old Gibraltar, where ſleep ſoon weighed down my eyes, "with ſoft oppreſſed;" and when I awakened,

I found

I found myſelf quite refreſhed. I hired a a Spaniſh boat to off and look, as it were, at the frigate under quarantine; I was lucky enough to ſucceed in conveying a line to the Captain, to ſend the boat aſhore for me that night; I dared not have gone aboard from the Spaniſh boat, as it would not be ſafe to inform them I belonged to the ſhip. The Captain behaved ſo exceedingly kind as to procure a man to anſwer for me when muſtered by the product maſter. Having got ſafe on board, we ſailed next day for Teneriffe; when arrived there, we were permitted to come on ſhore, on producing a bill of health from the product maſter of Gibraltar. On the ſame day, a brig arrived from Liverpool, which brought the melancholy tidings of the demiſe of his late Majeſty George the ſecond; ſuch an event, filled us with the greateſt ſorrow, and, in order to teſtify the ſincerity of our grief, we all purchaſed mourning, in which we appeared on ſhore; minute guns were fired, and the day was obſerved with the utmoſt ſolemnity. Having taken in a cargo of wine, we

ſailed

ſailed thence for Stockholm, where we had the good fortune to arrive but three days before the froſt ſet in: I had the honour to be preſented at court, and had as much reſpect paid to me, as if I had been an Admiral. The Swedes are well made, and the ladies exceedingly polite and affable; I viſited the theatre, where I was happy enough to be entertained and intereſted with the repreſentation of ſome French pieces. The actors and actreſſes were French, and ſeemed to underſtand their author well. The theatre was ſmall, but exceedingly neat, and always reſorted to by the beſt company; the gallery might hold about one hundred and fifty; and, I muſt acknowledge, that the ſcenery would not diſgrace Drury-lane or Covent-garden: the muſic, in general, did not pleaſe me ſo well, but, there was one performer that made ample amends for the whole, I wiſh I could recollect his name, for it deſerves to be remembered; he was a German. The Swediſh language is copious, and well adapted to poetry; there are many excellent

lent productions in it, both in proſe and verſe: they are all paſſionately fond of natural hiſtory and metallurgy; and a nobleman in that country does not think his character in the leaſt degraded, by an intimate acquaintance with the wits of the Auguſtan age. I made an apology for quitting the ſervice, as England was then at war with France, which was immediately complied with; there were ſeveral French gentlemen then at Stockholm, amongſt whom were many I knew; notwithſtanding the war, we met at public places, with as much friendſhip, as if both nations were at peace. I paſſed my time exceedingly pleaſant, until after Chriſtmas, with boar hunting, ſkating, and a continual round of entertainments, aſſemblies, plays, &c. until new year's day, when I left Stockholm, came through Holland and Harwich, and from thence to London. On my arrival there, my firſt enquiries were for Admiral Keppel, but found he was gone to Plymouth, and was daily expected to return. Whilſt I waited his return, I fell in with Captain Thompſon, of the

Tartar

Tartar privateer, of 28 guns, ready for ſea, on a three months cruiſe in the Mediterranean; I ſhipped as ſecond lieutenant, in order, when we reached there, to join Admiral Saunders. February 2d, 1762, we ſailed from Deptford, and, on the 11th, when cruiſing off Uſhant, we fell in with a French privateer ſhip, and one lugger, whom we engaged four glaſſes; we had ten men killed, and ſeveral wounded: My boy Ranger, was killed with a muſket ball; he was on the main deck, handing along powder; with the moſt heartfelt regret and ſorrow, I ordered him to be thrown overboard, for, though not quite dead, he was ſhot through the bowels, ſo that he was abſolutely irrecoverable, and, if he had lived for a few hours, his excruciating torments muſt have been dreadful; and, not being able to ſee him in his dying agonies, with piteous looks, kiſſing my feet at his laſt moments, my fondneſs for the boy, quite unmanned me to ſee him ſuffer. By mutual agreement of the French Captain and ours, and by conſent of the officers, conſidering, as the

Captain

Captain ſaid, privateers fighting was dog eat dog, and nothing to be got but hard blows and rags; we bore away, very much damaged in our rigging, our mainmaſt received ſeveral ſhots, that in carrying ſail, it ſprung ſo, that we put into the cove of Cork, under jurymaſts: when we came to anchor, we found a fleet of tranſports and victuallers, deſtined to Belliſle; I went volunteer on board the Firedrake bomb-catch, Lieutenant George Speering, who informed me, he was going under the command of Admiral Keppel.

When the iſland ſurrendered, I went to Gibraltar, where I waited on Admiral Saunders; his quarter deck being full, he ſent me on board his Majeſty's ſhip Montague, Captain William Williams, to do midſhipman's duty, where I remained until the Spaniſh war commenced, when the Admiral fitted out an armed xebeck, of which he gave me the command, and a commiſſion as acting lieutenant. I was principally on ſhore in the day, and in the night, I ran into Malaga, and other

adjacent

adjacent Spaniſh ports: I cut out from under the forts every night, veſſels more or leſs, laden with wine, as much as ſoon furniſhed the garriſon. I meſſed with the artillery officers. One evening, by chance, happening to be on ſhore, a melancholy accident happened:—Several of the artillery officers, the Welch fuſileers, and a few navy officers, ſpent the evening at a tavern, well known by the name of Miſs Loftus's; on payment of our reckoning, Captain Wilcox was deficient a cob (value about four ſhillings and ninepence) the payment of which, was offered to him by a Mr. Funſton, a lieutenant fireworker; Wilcox replied, he might keep his cob and be damned, he would not be beholden to any ſubaltern in his Majeſty's ſervice; Funſton then replied, that he need not be jealous at his offer: His making uſe of the word *jealous*, put Wilcox in the greateſt paſſion imaginable, as he had a *chere amie*, with whom he ſuſpected Funſton to be intimate; Wilcox ſtruck Funſton, and then told him, if he did not meet him at Windmill-hill, he ſhould poſt him as a

coward and ſcoundrel; it was agreed upon, and Lieutenant Atherly, of the Welch fuſilcers, and Mr. Wright, lieutenant, fire-worker of the artillery, and I, ſat up to attend the event of the duel; in the morning, on our way to the ground, we endeavoured to make the breach up; Funſton made every conceſſion honour would admit of, and it was thought it might be ſettled, as Funſton ſaid he would leave the matter to the deciſion of Lieutenant Wright; Wilcox, with great rage, replied, Wright was as great a ſcoundrel as himſelf; that affront made the duel inevitable. When we came to the ground, they made uſe of ſwords; after a few paſſes, Funſton was ſlightly wounded in the hip; the ground was then meaſured to finiſh the combat with piſtols; the firſt fire, Funſton wounded Wilcox ſlightly, he then went up to Wilcox to take him by the hand, and hoped his wound would not prove mortal, and it ſhould end there; Wilcox ſaid, he was determined one of them ſhould die on the ground; accordingly, a ſecond brace was produced, and

Wilcox

Wilcox wounded Funſton in the ſide, where the ball lodged: I cut my handkerchief, and ſtuffed it into the wound, whilſt the piſtols were loaded again: the third diſcharge, wounded Wilcox juſt in that part near the groin, called the Pope's eye, he fell, and although he could not riſe, he deſired to have another fire, which was refuſed by both ſeconds. I took Funſton on my back to the ſailors hoſpital, being the neareſt place, where the ball was extracted; I then went to Wilcox's miſtreſs, whom he was ſhortly to have married; I informed her of the accident, when, to my great aſtoniſhment, inſtead of ſhewing the leaſt emotion of grief for his death (for he had expired of his wounds, juſt as he reached the barracks) ſhe rung the bell in great haſte, and aſked the maid ſervant, whether the Captain had his gold buckles that morning in his ſhoes going out? There was a Court Martial held upon Funſton, at which, he was honourably acquitted; the lady took poſſeſſion of Wilcox's effects,

left the garriſon, and went to England. Speaking of the court martial, brings to my recollection, a trial that came on the very ſame day that Funſton was acquitted: A certain lieutenant, whoſe name, out of reſpect to his family, I forbear to mention, and who was with his regiment then in garriſon, being invited on board the Montague to dine with her officers, he got drunk on board, and, of courſe, his friend would not ſuffer him to go on ſhore in that ſituation, but furniſhed him with a cot near his own; the lieutenant ſlept till the next morning, and, when he awoke and got up, robbed his friend who had invited him, of a conſiderable ſum of money; he was found guilty, had his ſword broke over his head, his ſaſh cut, and diſcharged; this unfortunate man immediately quitted the garriſon, and went into the Algerine ſervice.

I was ſhortly after ordered on a cruiſe of ſpeculation by the Admiral, up the Straits; when we came to anchor in Cagliari-bay, it happened at the time of the carnival,

carnival, I gave liberty to the people to go on ſhore, I had but one boat, which the men went on ſhore in: My doctor, whoſe name was Jones, was a remarkable good ſwimmer and diver; he laid a wager with me, that he would jump overboard, and diving, riſe at the wreck of an old Spaniſh boat, that lay about a league ahead; he then undreſſed, and leaped in, head foremoſt; I looked out for him, as did my mate, Mr. Ramſey, and the cook, the reſt having all went aſhore; we looked for a long time, and could not ſee him riſe, until it being near ſun ſet; I gave him up for loſt, as I imagined his head, by diving with too great velocity, muſt have ſtuck in the ooze.——I was exceedingly ſorry I ſhould have laid ſuch a wager, and, in great trouble of mind, turned into my cabin, and lay quite awake, meditating on this accident, with my hand under my head; I was roufed from this reverie, by hearing ſomething ſtir, and, as the moon ſhone quite bright into my cabin, I perceived the figure of a man advancing ſlowly to-

wards me, which, when near enough, I diſtinguiſhed the features of the doctor, ſtill advancing, though ſlow, with uplifted hands, as if ready to ſeize me; I muſt confeſs I was very much terrified with this appearance, and I hollowed out luſtily, which alarmed my mate, Mr. Ramſey; he came running in with a candle in his hand, the inſtant he ſaw the doctor, he let the candle fall from his hand, and dropt into fits on the ground; I put my hand to the doctor, and found him fleſh and blood; he then immediately exclaimed, I am afraid, Captain, that I have carried the joke too far, poor Ramſey, the mate, is very ill, he informed me, on my requiring an explanation of his uncommon appearance; that inſtead of diving forward whilſt we were looking out for him, that he dived under the veſſel, and got in at the cabin window, ſecreting himſelf amongſt the cloaths, until I was in bed, to have an opportunity of frightening me; this little frolic, with great concern I am obliged to relate, had a moſt dreadful effect on poor Ramſey, who ſurvived the ſhock

he

he had received but three weeks, during which time, he laboured under every horror of affright and terror. At this time, the plague raged with great violence: we put into Smyrna, where I had Ramſey interred in the Engliſh burying ground; I ſuffered no one belonging to me to go on ſhore; I always ſaw the boat put off, as ſoon as I got on ſhore. Mr. Cruiſe, the Engliſh Conſul, in a few days after, gave me an invitation to dine with him; the day fixed for that purpoſe, general orders were given that no one ſhould appear in the ſtreets; of courſe, I ſtayed with Mr. Cruiſe, as did ſeveral others, Engliſh, Danes, Dutch, and other Chriſtians; the peſt-bell rang at ſun-ſet and ſun-riſe, for the dead bodies to be brought out, for which three open caravans attended, one for the Chriſtians, one for the Jews, and one for the Turks; for each ſect, a large pit was dug, about a league from town, where they were tumbled in, cloaths and all. There was a large ciſtern at the palace-gate, with vinegar kept continually boiling, in which, letters and parcels were ſteeped, as they came in:

the fourth day, in the morning, as we were at breakfaſt, and reaching a cup of chocolate to my mouth, I felt an unuſual ſtiffneſs and pain in my right arm, which I happened to mention; a clergyman preſent, inſtantly declared, I had got the plague, on which they all fled from me, and got on the terrace, a place on the top of the houſe, covered with lead; they ordered me, immediately, outſide the palace-gates, with a pole in my hand, and, a red rag tied to the top of it, to denote I was infected; I wandered about, and found almoſt all the houſes ſhut, except a few which were open and inhabited by thoſe that had had the plague, and got over it; theſe only attended the dead to the pits: I was called into a Jew's houſe, where I was kindly received by a Jeweſs, who kept a conſtant fomentation of herbs, gathered for that purpoſe, which ſhe carefully applied to where the plague had attacked me, which, I was obliged to keep tied over my head; in that miſerable ſituation, I remained five days, and, on the expiration of which time, the inflamation

broke

broke like a large tumour, and diſcharged an amazing quantity of *pus*; by this unhoped for and providential relief (for on an average, not one in an *hundred* eſcaped, that were infected) I found myſelf perfectly eaſy and well, and quite rid of this terrific diſorder; I hailed the veſſel, ordered clothes to be got ready for me, and, on the beach, I ſet fire to all I had on me: As ſoon as I got on board, I weighed anchor, and ſailed for Gibraltar, the crew all in good health and ſpirits; I there lay at quarantine, and, a few days after it was expired, I went on ſhore, and dined with the preſent Marquis (then General) Cornwallis, Governor of Gibraltar, and a number of officers, both naval and military; they ſeemed well pleaſed with the ſtory of the doctor's ghoſt, but were ſorry for poor Ramſey's diſaſter. Amongſt the officers, were Admiral Saunders, Mr. Pownal, and Mr. Sawyer, the preſent Admiral, both maſters and commanders of ſloops, and, except my xebeck, they were the ſmalleſt veſſels in the fleet; in order, to ſharpen our vigilance, the Admiral declared, that

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any prize or prizes we ſhould take, would not be claimed by the fleet; the Admiral was alſo pleaſed to obſerve, that the old mole was filled with polacars, turtans, &c. and other Spaniſh veſſels, all taken by me *only*. The Governor alſo, very politely complimented my activity in the ſervice. Captains Pownall and Sawyer, were brothers-in-law, who commanded the two ſloops, the "Active" and "Favourite;" in a few days after, they were both ordered to cruiſe to the weſtward; off Cape St. Vincent, they fell in with a Spaniſh regiſter ſhip, which they captured, and brought ſafe into the bay; they immediately reminded the Admiral of his promiſe, which he religiouſly kept, notwithſtanding the murmuring of the officers of the fleet, who each thought themſelves entitled to a ſhare of the prize-money of the regiſter ſhip ſo captured as above: the reader may gueſs at the aſtoniſhing ſums which were ſhared by the commanders, when Mr. Dickſon, who was but ſurgeon's mate of the Active, had to his own ſhare, the ſum of £.15,000 ſterling, which very man

man I met, by great accident, in Cork, five years after, in the utmoſt miſery, without a ſhoe to his foot, in conſequence of his unbridled extravagance. My own prize-money of the veſſels I had captured from the Spaniards, came to a conſiderable ſum; however, I ſtill remained cruiſing with great ſucceſs up the Straits. Admiral Saunders received orders from the Lords of the Admiralty, to convene the officers of his fleet, to know if any of them would chuſe to enter into the Portugueſe navy, as ſeveral officers were at that time, wanted in the Portugueſe fleet. A ſignal was accordingly made for all young lieutenants, maſters mates, and midſhipmen, to repair without delay, on board the Admiral's ſhip. The Admiral opened the propoſition, but few evinced any inclination to accept of it, as every man immediately expected to make a fortune by the Spaniſh war, the Spaniſh dollars jingled in every ear.——I had heard a good deal of the Portugueſe, and, muſt confeſs, that I was not very much prepoſſeſſed in favour of that nation; the proverb is, that if

you

you ſtrip a Spaniard of all his good qualities, he'll make an excellent Portugueſe; in contradiction to this, I put the old ſaying, the truth of which I had often experienced, that virtue is the growth of every ſoil. The Active and the Favourite had juſt brought in the two capital prizes aforeſaid, every tar was quite agog; having weighed every thing in my mind, however, I accepted the offer, through the hopes of preferment, as I was but an acting lieutenant; Mr. Fraſer and Mr. Hardcaſtle joined me; I drew £.500 out of my agent's hands, in order, to equip myſelf for the ſervice. My agent was well known by the name of honeſt *Tom Tierney*, but he failed, and made his eſcape *ſans ceremonie*, with the remainder of my caſh in his hands, to a conſiderable amount. I was not left alone, to repine at this misfortune, for there were ſeveral officers in the fleet, whom he ſerved in the ſame manner. When we arrived at Liſbon, I was highly pleaſed with the ſituation of the city on the banks of the golden Tagus; we were received by his Portu-

gueſe

gueſe Majeſty and the court, which was very brilliant. The Count de Eares, who was prime miniſter at the time, behaved to us, with the utmoſt politeneſs, and promiſed to render us every ſervice in his power. We dreſſed in the firſt ſtile, appeared at court every Thurſday, and, on our firſt introduction, had the honour of kiſſing his Majeſty's hand. Never did I witneſs ſuch eccleſiaſtical pomp and hauteur, nor, could I have believed it, if I had not ſeen it with my eyes; the King, as often as they retired from his preſence, kiſſed the hem of their garments. The Portugueſe are, in point of ſcience, perhaps, behind almoſt every other nation in Europe, though there is an academy of ſcience, in whoſe productions we meet with a few papers worth reading. The common people are exceedingly fond of muſic, and, the Gallicians who ply as porters and ſervants in Liſbon, are, of all others, perhaps, the moſt faithful and honeſt; I was charmed with ſeveral anecdotes of their fidelity.

The air of Portugal is exceedingly fine, but that of the Braſils, is reckoned to be the fineſt in the world, and, it is common for people of conſumptive habits, to remove from the former to the latter, which generally recovers them. There are ſeveral fine proſpects about the city, which I endeavoured to enjoy as often as I could; their dramatic repreſentations would diſgrace even Bartholomew-fair. The fair ſex are very amorous, fine teeth and eyes, but no feature; they go to church in black veils, and their voice, in general, is the moſt melodious. The outſide of their ſhips are exceedingly clean, but the inſide is juſt the contrary. I viſited the ſpot where the remains of that divine poet Camoens, are depoſited; you will ſcarce meet any Portugueſe of rank, that cannot repeat a conſiderable portion of the Luſiad by heart, which they conſider as the firſt epic poem in the world; I have read Mickle's tranſlation of it, and, muſt confeſs, that it abounds with beauties, and yet, like Otway, this immortal bard literally died of want.

The tears he ſhed can waſh out future faults,
The ſighs he breath'd can ſoften future thoughts;
So fate ordains it that th' eternal ſtrain
Should ſpring from ſolitude and pleaſing *pain*.

We were all commiſſioned ſoon after our arrival; I was appointed to a new ſhip then on the ſtocks, called the Madere Dieuos, of 84 guns.—The boatſwain was one day heating ſome pitch, which, by his neglect, boiled over, and communicated the flames to the cable tiers, which immediately conſumed her to the ſurface of the water, in the river Tagus, three days after ſhe had been launched. I frequently viſited the merchants at Liſbon, one of whom propoſed to me a mode of conveyance of ſome ſilks, poplin, and other goods, which had not been entered in the Cuſtom-houſe, from a ſtore-houſe he had in the country, to his warehouſe in town: my ſervants were allowed to wear the King's livery, as was every Engliſh officer's in the ſervice; I was to carry the goods in my carriage to his houſe in town; I made ſeveral trips, and Mr. Caffrey

Caffrey, who employed me, made it very advantageous to me and himſelf;—the ſtore-houſe was about ſix Engliſh miles from town, and directly oppoſite a monaſtry, where there was ſome hanging gardens; a friar who belonged to the cloiſter, had obſerved me go to and fro, and take in the goods; he hailed me, and deſired I would give him a paſſage to town; I informed him, I was going another way, for, as I had the carriage full of goods, I could not admit him; he immediately gave information at the Cuſtom-houſe, and, in a few days, I was waylaid with my cargo; they could not immediately meddle with or detain my perſon, without a ſpecial order from the king, and, at that time, he was at the frontiers of Spain; the carriage, goods, and my ſervants were ſeized, as was alſo my employer and his family; I was very much alarmed in conſequence of theſe proceedings, being informed, that I ſhould be puniſhed by the inquiſition; I was determined to endeavour to eſcape, and got on board his Majeſty's ſhip the

"Surprize,"

" Surprize," Captain Frane, whoſe protection I ſolicited, but, he informed me, he could not poſſibly ſecrete me, and, if they came on board to demand me, he muſt give me up, being then in the Portugueſe ſervice. I remained on board that night; and next morning, I ſaw a ſignal made for the King's boats to be manned and armed; fear made me imagine they were going in ſearch of me; I ſaw three veſſels that lay at anchor at Balem, a place near the bar, and about eight Engliſh miles from the Surprize, of which I was then on board; I inſtantly ſtripped off all to my breeches, which were Engliſh uniform, and ſwam down the river Tagus, as the boats rowed up; when I had got paſt them, I ſwam for the veſſels at anchor; the tide ran ſo rapid, that I was drove from the firſt veſſel, whoſe cable I had attempted to hold by, but failed; from the impetuoſity of the current, the nails of three of my fingers were torn off; with the greateſt difficulty, and, quite exhauſted, I reached the ſloop, which was the laſt veſſel; if I had

miſſed her, I muſt have been carried to ſea, and periſhed. When I got on board, I found the crew was compoſed of men who had ran from Engliſh men of war, and, they ſeeing my uniform breeches, were proceeding to throw me overboard, leſt I ſhould trepan or betray them; I aſſured them, I laboured under a ſimilar misfortune; notwithſtanding which they would have put their purpoſe into execution, but for the humanity of a good-natured Iriſhman, who prevailed on them to alter the dreadful reſolution, as he believed I was honeſt, and ſpoke the truth; that they wanted a maſter, and, that ſhe was ſo leaky, none could be got at Liſbon to take charge of her. I ſent a line on ſhore by the Portugueſe boat, to the owner, who happened to be an acquaintance of mine; his name was Walker, formerly Commodore of the Royal Family Privateers out of London; he ſent me cloaths on board, and cleared me out in a fictitious name. I weighed anchor, and ſtood out to ſea, until the other two veſſels joined me; I was made maſter and ſupercargo:

ſupercargo: my orders, in caſe we ſeparated, were, to make the beſt of my way to New York, Rhode Iſland, or Philadelphia, and diſpoſe of the veſſel and cargo. We had not been many days at ſea, when the Commodore deſired I would hoiſt my boat out, and come on board to dine with him; after dinner, a young gentleman, who was on board for his health, and the mate, went on deck; he obſerved to me, that if the ſloop went ſafe to any port in America, he was a ruined man, as ſhe was loaded with goods brought from Belliſle, which he had got from the ſutlers, both at and after the ſiege, and was not ſaleable, therefore, wiſhed her to go to the bottom, and deſired, if we met with a gale of wind, to quit her, and come on board of him, or the other veſſel in company; if a continuance of mild weather, to ſcuttle her unperceived by the ſailors, and aſſured me, if I complied with his requeſt, he would reward me very handſomely, and give me the command of a very good veſſel from America: I told him,

in anſwer, that I would oblige him in any thing conſiſtent with honour and honeſty, acknowledged the various obligations I had received from him, his kindneſs in putting me in that ſituation, and of protecting me from the inquiſition, the very name of which, carried terror in it; and, although I owed my life to him, in that caſe, I would riſque it doubly in complying with the requeſt he made; he then begged of me to conſider of what he had mentioned, and he would ſend me a bottle of milk in the morning, and expected an anſwer by return of the bottle, which I gave in the negative the next day. Shortly after, we met with a hard gale of wind, which ſeparated us, and, with the utmoſt difficulty, I got the veſſel ſafe into Rhode Iſland, where I diſpoſed of her and the cargo, on more advantageous terms than he could expect. He got into Boſton with the brig and ſchooner, where he ſent for me. When I arrived, I found my mother was dead; Mr. Walker did not ſhew any reſentment for my refuſing

to ſink the ſloop, and, to convince me that he approved of my conduct, he ſaid, he would purchaſe a good veſſel, of which I ſhould have the command, to go to Nova Scotia to fiſh, and from thence to the Mediterranean. I did not accept of his offer, as I intended to ſtay awhile with my friends at Boſton, where I remained five months, then went to Marblehead, and ſhipped myſelf as chief mate in a new brig for Briſtol. We were to have a Captain Marſhal, a military officer, his lady, and three children, paſſengers, but one of the children falling very ill, prevented the lady and children from coming with us. Captain Marſhal, only, came paſſenger. She was a ſtout brig of 300 Tons, new off the ſtocks, built for ſale of green timber. When we got near the banks of Newfoundland, we met with a ſevere gale of wind, and, in the middle watch, we ſtarted a plank in the brig's ſide, which ſhipped the ſea in like a ſluice; in a few minutes, we were waterlodged, and, had we not have been buoyantly laden, muſt have gone to the

bottom, and all periſhed; we had two men waſhed overboard; we hauled up Captain Marſhal to the maintop; the maſter, four men, and myſelf, alſo got in the maintop, where we ſecurely laſhed ourſelves for two nights and one day; when on the morning of the third day, we ſaw a ſloop ſhape her courſe towards us; ſhe bore down and took us on board; the weather being ſo bad, that there was no fire, nor had they any meat dreſſed; we fell to the beef tub, and eat very hearty of raw meat with biſcuits, and drank ſome ſtrong grog; Captain Marſhal could not eat, and died the ſame night. The veſſel which took us up, ran into Rhode Iſland, where we were all new rigged out, and each man received fifty dollars and good quarters, until they got ſhipped for different veſſels. I then went to New York, where I made application to Sir James Douglas, who entered me on board his Majeſty's ſhip Dublin, a ſupernumary midſhipman to walk the quarter deck. The Spaniſh war being over, the fleet intended for that quarter

was

was ordered home. When I arrived at Portſmouth, I wrote to ſome friends who promiſed me the command of a brig in the merchant ſervice, with advice to take charge of her with all expedition; for which purpoſe, I finiſhed my naval buſineſs without much difficulty, it being then peaceable times. Not being certain of the day I ſhould take my departure, I had not engaged a place in the ſtage, ſo that when I wiſhed to go, they were all full: At the King's Arms, I found a lady in the ſame ſituation as myſelf; ſhe ſeemed to be in a very great hurry, and propoſed that we ſhould take a chaiſe to London, obſerving, that it would be nearly as cheap, and more comfortable than travelling in a ſtage-coach; I agreed with her in opinion, and expreſſed a wiſh we might meet a third, as that would leſſen the expence, and complete the party; however, we did not, ſo we ſet out at night, and arrived ſafe in London, where we parted: I then purſued my journey to Briſtol; but the day before I arrived, the veſſel had ſailed

for Dublin; I immediately embarked, and, on my arrival, took charge of the brig. My voyage was to be from thence to Oviero, in Portugal, with bale goods to a large amount, which I was to diſpoſe of, at the great carmas (which in England is called a *fair*.) The bale goods not being quite ready, and having ſome time to ſpare, the owners in Dublin, Meſſrs. M'Dermott and Hickey, ordered me to make a trip to Lancaſter, to load with potatoes for Dublin, as they were then very dear in all parts of Ireland. When I came near the coaſt of Lancaſhire, I made the ſignal for a pilot; a boat immediately came off, with an old man, a boy, and the pilot: the two laſt came on board, and the pilot-boat aſtern, with the old man in it; the pilot claſped his hands on the binnacle, and aſked, how Corfe Caſtle bore? I looked at the compaſs, and informed him; I aſked him, if he could take me up that ſide? he ſaid, yes; he ordered a man in the chains, to heave the lead, ſhortened or made ſail, as he thought proper;

proper; as he had the care of the veſſel, I went down to the cabin, to prepare myſelf for going on ſhore before high-water. When I came up, I found the brig moored alongſide a veſſel, two tier from the quay of Lancaſter; there were two planks to croſs, and two veſſels, before we could get on ſhore; the pilot went forward, and I followed him acroſs three fields, till he came to the Sun tavern; being a ſtranger, he ſhewed me there to pay his pilotage: I called for a bowl of grog to treat him, and threw the money on the table, which he demanded for pilotage; he was a long time groping for it, though before him upon the table, upon which, I ſaid, jocularly, "dam'me! why don't you take it up? ſure you are not blind?" when, to my utter aſtoniſhment and ſurprize, he informed me, that he was as blind as the mainmaſt of my veſſel, and, had been ſo for many years; though not perceptible to any one, yet he had not the ſmalleſt uſe of the veſual nerve: Struck with the greateſt

greateſt amazement, I took leave of this extraordinary man, firmly reſolved, never to employ a blind pilot to ſteer my veſſel on ſuch a dangerous coaſt again. After I had loaded there with potatoes, I ſailed to Dublin, and diſcharged my cargo to the ſatisfaction of the owners, who complimented my expedition and care. The bale goods were by this time ready, ſo I immediately took in my lading, which in a ſhort time I completed, and, after a proſperous and ſpeedy paſſage, arrived at Oviero, in Portugal, where, attending the *carmas*, I diſpoſed of my cargo of bale goods, to great advantage, and took in ſalt, and ſailed for St. John's, Newfoundland, where I diſpoſed of the ſalt; then taking in ballaſt, I went from Newfoundland, where I ſailed for St Michael's, and took in a cargo of fruit, from whence I proceeded to Dublin, where, after the brig's cargo was ſold, ſhe was diſpoſed of there, and I received a recommendation from my owners, Meſſrs. M'Dermott and Hickey,

to ſome merchants in London, for which place I immediately embarked. Whilſt I remained in Dublin, there happened a ſingular circumſtance of ſwindling, which excited the public converſation then ſo much, that I preſume no apology will be neceſſary for laying it before my readers :—When the Lively packet, from Holyhead, was ſailing for Dublin, with a number of nobility, amongſt whom was the late Marquis of Kildare, the unſkilfulneſs of the pilot drove the veſſel on a dangerous ſhoal of rocks, that threatened inſtant deſtruction to the packet, and every one on board were preparing to meet their fate ; the celebrated Captain Sampſon, then late of the navy, and on half pay, and who was an exceeding good ſeaman in this juncture, ſeized the helm, and, by a dextrous nautical manœuvre, extricated the veſſel from impending ruin, and the paſſengers and crew from certain death, and ſet afloat, and ſteered her into Dublin harbour. The gratitude of the nobility and gentry who were paſſengers, equalled,

if

if not exceeded, his moſt ſanguine expectations; as his circumſtances were known to be rather indigent, they each permitted him to draw on them, repeatedly, for conſiderable ſums of money, particularly the Earl of Kildare, who inſiſted on Captain Sampſon making Kildare-houſe his home, and introduced him to the firſt circles of faſhion and nobility in Ireland; the patronage of this nobleman, and his brilliant appearance, in conſequence, made him reſolve to take an elegant houſe in Abbey-ſtreet, which he furniſhed in the moſt expenſive and ſplendid manner; at laſt, when he found his deſigns ripe for execution, he invited a large company of his friends, all young men of fortune and faſhion, to dine with him on a certain day; in the morning, he waited on his patron, the Earl, from whom, as well as others, he had received conſiderable ſums, and, taking an opportunity of his abſence, went into his lordſhip's ſtudy, took a bank checque on Latouche, with whom the Earl kept all his caſh, and forged an order,

order, as from Lord Kildare, for immediate payment to bearer for £.5000; he then went to Lucas's Coffee-houſe, and ſent for an old ſervant of the Duke's, a plain man, very much in his maſter's confidence, and who readily acceded to Sampſon's requeſt, which was to go to the bank and receive the caſh, which he did, and brought it inſtantly to Lucas's to Sampſon, who ſent him with a letter out of Dublin ten miles, with orders to wait for an anſwer: Thus, having every thing prepared, he went to receive his company at his houſe, where he had provided a ſumptuous treat, the choiceſt wines, &c.; they drank very freely after dinner, and, about nine at night, he propoſed to his young friends, that, in order to finiſh the evening like bucks, they ſhould adjourn their revels to the houſe of a celebrated cyprean abbeſs, which was unanimouſly agreed to; he then, as if upon recollection, ſaid he would leave his watch, purſe, pocket-book, &c. behind in his bureau, and only take a ſingle guinea in his pocket, and recommended

it

it to them to take the ſame precaution; and inſiſted upon their ſupping with him on their return; this was alſo agreed to, and each depoſited his purſe, watch, &c. with Sampſon, every man reſerving only a guinea for the expences of the evening, which the Captain carefully locked up in his deſk; having ſallied forth to the place appointed, whilſt they were immerſed in the joys of love and wine, Sampſon ſtole away unperceived, got home, where he emptied the contents of their purſes into his pocket, packed up their watches, &c. and, having a few days before ſold and been paid for all his furniture, which were to remain in his houſe, by agreement, till that night, all of which he had taken up on credit, as well as his wines, &c. to a large amount; to uſe the language of Macheath, finding the coaſt all clear, he reached George's Quay, where he had a yacht in readineſs at high water, which was at twelve, and ſet his foot on board, and bade adieu to the hoſpitable ſhores of Ireland, with the whole of his booty, amounting to upwards

of

of £.6000. Having got ſafe to London, he was ſo infatuated by his ſucceſs, that he thought himſelf quite ſecure; but the Earl of Kildare detected the forgery, had him taken and brought to Ireland for trial, and, for which, he was condemned to die, but, at the interceſſion of that nobleman, he was reprieved, on condition of his going to India for life, which he did, where he lived ſome years, when he was carried off by a fever.

It was with infinite regret that I took my leave of Dublin, the *Eblana* of Ptolemy, the celebrated geographer. The city at this time extended near two miles in every direction; at preſent, I am well aſſured, it is much beyond that meaſure. The river Liffey, which paſſes nearly through its centre, in breadth or depth, is by no means equal to the Thames; it is croſſed by five bridges, and I am now informed that a ſixth of great elegance is nearly finiſhed. Eſſex bridge is exactly ſixteen inches broader than Blackfriar's. Perhaps no

no city has increaſed of late ſo rapidly in beauty, ſize, and opulence. The harbour reſembles an amphitheatre; the entrance into it is enchanting; on the left the Wicklow mountain, fading to ethereal blue; and the right the village of Clontarf, ſprinkled with villas, forms a beautiful contraſt. It is defended from the inclemency of the wind and waves by a ſtrong mole, at this time almoſt completed, nearly four miles in length, terminated with a light-houſe, which is erected about a mile from the eaſtern, and adjacent to the ſouthern bar. The promontory of *Hoath* forms the north ſide of the bay; and another complete pharos has been juſt erected.

The city contains twenty pariſhes, and eighteen pariſh churches, a few chapels of eaſe, the cathedral of St. Patrick, and the collegiate Chriſt's Church.

The remains of the celebrated Iriſh Rabelais, Dean Swift, are depoſited in St. Patrick's Cathedral; and thoſe of the celebrated

celebrated Mrs. Johnſon, better known by the name of Stella, are depoſited hard by. The late Alderman, George Faulkner, has raiſed a marble buſt to the memory of his worthy patron, the Dean.

It is now finally ſettled, that Doctor Swift was born in Hoey's Court, Dublin.

Saint Patrick's library contains many excellent books, particularly the claſſical collection of the juſtly celebrated Tanaquil Fabre; the manuſcripts are few.

Of the many public edifices which adorn the city, the following are the moſt worthy of note :—the caſtle, which ſtands nearly in the middle of the town; Birmingham Tower contains many ancient records, &c. which would ſhed much light on the civil and military hiſtory of that country.

The Houſe of Commons is a fine ſtructure; the front would do honour to

the taſte of old Rome. The univerſity is an elegant pile; I thought the front a little too heavy. The number of ſtudents amounts to between five and ſix hundred. The Linen-hall, the barracks, and the hoſpital for invalids, claim the attention of the curious traveller.

The Royal Exchange, and the New Cuſtom-houſe, were not built in my time.

To the weſt end of the town adjoins the Phœnix Park, a royal demeſne, of great beauty, which extends above two miles in length, and a mile and a half in breadth, on the north ſide of the Liffey.

The citizens are hoſpitable to the laſt degree, and may be divided into two claſſes, the pampered, and the ſtarved.

The ladies are exceedingly well formed, affable, and engaging. In my time, there was not one hotel in the city; at preſent,

I am

I am aſſured, there are many. The wines are excellent, and the larders always well ſupplied.

The corporation conſiſts of a Lord Mayor, twenty-four Aldermen, and a Common Council, &c.

I could get no ſituation. Whilſt I waited there, I met a gentleman, an officer of Light Horſe, whom I knew at Liſbon, he ſold out, and had an eſtate in Glouceſterſhire; he prevailed on me to go down with him, and ſpend a few months at his houſe in the country. As this gentleman's marriage was very ſingular, and as he and his family are now living, I ſhall mention the circumſtances, but not his name. He was of a very open, generous diſpoſition, but very free and diſſipated in his conduct: at laſt he began ſeriouſly to reflect on the futility of his purſuits, and reſolved to marry and domeſticate himſelf; for this purpoſe, though he was in poſſeſſion of a fine fortune, he declined paying his addreſſes to any of the ladies of fortune in

the neighbourhood, but determined to chuſe his wife from a much humbler claſs; he informed me of his unalterable reſolution; and in order to put it in practice, he went to a tenant on his eſtate, who kept a public-houſe, and deſired him to get a ſhift, to decorate it with ribbons, and diſplay it in a conſpicuous manner, and inform all the young women in the vicinity, that on ſuch a day the ſmicket would be ran for; and he informed me, he was reſolved to make the girl who won the race his wife. At the day appointed, five ſtarted; the girl that won did not win his fancy, but the ſecond; in conſequence of which he prevailed on me to ſet aſide (as Judge) the claim of the firſt, on the ground of not ſtarting fair, and award the prize to the ſecond, whom he afterwards married, and who was really a very fine girl. He had her inſtructed in the French language, and all the polite accompliſhments; ſhe had a quick capacity, and improved conſiderably: he then took her to France, where they lived a year, and when I ſaw her laſt, which was in

1790,

1790, ſhe was, in every reſpect, a woman of poliſhed and refined education, and has been the inſtrument of reforming my friend from that liſtleſs round of pleaſures in which he was involved, to the calm pleaſures of a retired and ſocial life. Soon after, I went with ſome gentlemen, with whom I had got acquainted whilſt with him, to the Worceſter triennial muſic meeting; we all repaired to the public ball, where I danced with a young lady, one of the chorus ſingers in the cathedral; I was immediately enamoured with her, and after ſome converſation, I boldly propoſed a union, which, if agreeable to her, ſhould take place immediately, or not at all, as I was then going to Scotland; ſhe told me, I was very precipitate, and that ſhe could not immediately give an anſwer; with all the impetuoſity of a young man, I replied, that ſhe ſhould only have that night to give it a thought, and, if ſhe pleaſed, I would meet her in the College green, at eleven in the morning, which ſhe did; it was then agreed on between us, that

we ſhould go to Bromſgrove, and return to her friends when the nuptial knot was tied; we returned, and I was introduced to her father, mother, and family, with whom we ſtayed about a month.—— As ſhe ſung well, and was an excellent figure, I thought the ſtage would be the beſt means of ſupport; accordingly, hearing of a company of Comedians that were at Sudbury, we joined them; this Company was directed by a man, well known, afterwards, by the name of Bob Bates; we were to have three ſhares; —one for my muſic, one for my wife's ſinging and acting, and one for my own acting; the whole of the three ſhares did not amount to four ſhillings per week. We endeavoured, however, to vegetate on this ſcanty allowance for the ſpace of ſix weeks. The truth is, I felt very little on my own account, but the partner of my affection touched me ſo ſenſibly, that it was with much difficulty I could conceal it from her. I endeavoured, however, to make as light of every thing

as

as poſſible, and cheared myſelf and my fair companion with the promiſe of better days. With all my philoſophy, the time would have paſſed very heavily, were it not for the company of a young Iriſhman, who poſſeſſed an amazing fund of good humour, and who had indulged a very early paſſion for the ſtage; he had a good voice, and uſed to compoſe his own ſongs, which he ſung with uncommon *naivtè*; as I recollect one of them, perhaps the reader will pardon the inſertion of it.

PADDY'S RAMBLES IN LONDON.

To London I got about *one* in the night,
While the moon was yet ſpreading her ſecond-hand light,
And I never did *hear* ſuch a damnable *ſight*.

A fire, a fire, a fellow cry'd out,
I ran like the reſt, and I joined in the ſhout,
And when I got there, lack-a-day, what a rout.

A fire, all cry'd, was ever ſuch ſtuff,
Said I to a fellow that ſeemed in a huff,
It's water ye want, ye have fire enough.

So I got to my lodgings, I cannot tell how,
As tir'd as if I was holding the plough,
At the ſign of the *Bull*, which they call the *Red Cow*.

And as I don't mind all your faſhions and vogues,
I roſe the next morning, and put on my *brogues*,
And drank all my money for fear of the rogues.

For they may pick your pocket, but here let me tell ye,
It's not quite ſo eaſy to pick a man's belly,
If you keep your mouth cloſe, as my name's Paddy Kelly.

So I aſked for a lane, that is, a young ſtreet,
And overtook two, that I chanc'd for to meet,
With the brogue on their tongue, inſtead of their feet.

From Cork they came over, haymakers by trade,
To flouriſh a muſket, inſtead of a ſpade,
For Paddy, you know, was never afraid.

We called for ſome gin, and came home by Pall Mall,
And I'm a ſcholar, you know very well,
For Paddy could read before he could ſpell.

So I fixed both my eyes on a houſe ſo intent,
On which it was written, "Here money is lent,"
So Paddy ruſhed in, as his ſhiners were ſpent.

I aſked for a guinea, he gave me a grin,
I gave the d——n'd raſcal a kick on the ſhin,
To keep ſuch a houſe to draw people in.

Cætera deſent.

We had alſo in our dramatic Corps, a very genteel young man, who had been bred at Wincheſter School. The reader may form ſome idea of his claſſical talents, from the following ſpecimen, which he compoſed at the age of fourteen.——

ITALIA.

Cum pius Æneas ſervaſſet ab igne Penates
  Geſtaſſetque humeris dulce parentis onus,
Ut tantam donent pietatem munere digno
  Italiæ regnum quærere fata jubent.
Hic ſegetes pleno diffundit Copia cornu,
  Et teneris pomis Arbor onuſta gemit.
Undique lætus Ager ſine cultu fundit odores
  Purpureiſque rubet Terra benigna Roſis.
Deſinat extremos Mercator currere ad Indos,
  Nec ſubeat longi dira Peric, la Maris!
Hinc Merces pretio majori nauta reportet,
  Et citius ſalſas itque reditque vias.
Quamvis impatiens Pontis volvatur Araxes
  Et Rhenus læto flumine pandit iter,
Virgilii carmen dum vivit nobile, curſu
  Parva magis celebri Tybridis unda fluit.

In

In the converſation of thoſe two, though time did not dance away with down to his feet, neither did the hoary gentleman move with leaden ſteps. At length, a manager who had been beating up for recruits, paid us a viſit; he told us that he was going to an adjacent town in Glouceſterſhire, called Wickwar, he offered my wife and me an engagement, and, as our ſituation was ſuch as to diſpoſe us to accept of almoſt any ſituation, we liſtened to his propoſal, though his countenance did not, indeed, prepoſſeſs us in his favour. No truſting to title pages; however, Lavater himſelf, has been miſtaken, why not, as well as *Zopirus?* With reſpect to our board, he aſſured us, we ſhould fare as his own family, dropping a hint at the ſame time, that his table was always well furniſhed. After ſome conſultation, I accepted his offer, and was ſorry that I could not prevail on my two friends, whom I have juſt mentioned, to accompany us, I think I ſhould inform the reader, that the manager's name was *Stow*. As ſoon as we arrived at the place of our deſti-

deſtination, and refreſhed ourſelves, our firſt buſineſs was to get permiſſion of the Mayor. The Lady, or Mrs. Mayoreſs, which ever ſhe chuſes to be called, informed us, that *Cara Spoſa* was at work about a mile diſtant. Out of reſpect to the village *Prætor*, we thought we could not do leſs than wait on him; he was a thatcher by trade, and we found him very buſily employed on the roof of a barn. His worſhip deſcended ſo far from his lofty ſituation, as to accompany us to a public-houſe. Having emptied a few tankards of native amber, he gave us his permiſſion, and let us the town-hall at two ſhillings per week, and engaged himſelf at ſixpence a night, to keep off the mob. It would only be a waſte of time, ink, and paper, to recount the *ſtage tricks* to which we were reduced to get a morſel of bread. In ſpite of misfortune, notwithſtanding, we contrived to have one hearty feaſt—a ſheep's head boiled, &c. and a mug of beer, which mantled on our cheeks. This mode of life quite depreſſed my ſpirits, and I was determined

termined to get rid of it as ſoon as poſſible; for this purpoſe, I applied to a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who had been a purſer in the navy, and who played a little on the violin, to beſpeak a play, and deſired Mr. Stow would ſhare the money received, and to let every one provide themſelves with ſilver; this gentleman complied with my requeſt, and, accordingly, beſpoke the Beggars Opera, and other entertainments; this happened on Wedneſday, and the play was given out for the Monday following, which was a very joyful hearing to all the members of this theatric ſquad, who had not ſhared ſixpence for a length of time; in the interval, between that and Monday, there being no play, for the beſt of reaſons, (no audience,) as the inhabitants reſerved themſelves for our benefit, I took that opportunity of going to Bath, which was diſtant from Wickwar about twenty miles, in order to try, if by an application to the Bath manager, I could better our ſituation; I accordingly ſet out, and took the road with the immenſe ſum

total

total of twopence halfpenny ſterling in my pocket. I had not proceeded far on my journey, when I overtook a young man, whom I found, on entering into converſation with him, was a wheelwright by trade, and had taken French leave of his father, to whom he was bound as apprentice, in order to ſee Bath, of which he had heard very much, and in order to get into work there: We travelled together, and having arrived in the city, I enquired where Mr. Arthur, the manager, lived; when I had received information, I went with my travelling chum into a public-houſe, directly oppoſite the manager's, which was a very elegant one, whence I wrote a letter to him, as from Wickwar, and informed him of the diſagreeable ſituation of Mrs. Moore and myſelf, mentioned our reſpective talents, and requeſted a ſituation in his theatre, at whatever ſalary he ſhould think proportioned to our merit; I waited; the reader may conceive my agitation, expecting the reſult of this epiſtle, upon which every thing depended; when I placed myſelf

myſelf at the window, and ſaw my meſſenger rap at the manager's door, which was opened by a gentleman, whom I ſuſpected (and as I afterwards found) to be the manager in perſon; he read the letter; the door being open, and obſerving him ſmile whilſt reading, thought that a favourable omen. He aſked the young man where I was, who informed him, according to my inſtruction, that I was at Wickwar; he then deſired him to come in, where, as he informed me on his return with the anſwer, Mr. Arthur had ordered him to the kitchen, to regale himſelf with beef and ſtrong beer, and gave him half a crown to bring me the anſwer, which contained an engagement for me and my wife, couched in the moſt polite terms. With infinite joy I returned to Wickwar, where I waited till the benefit was over, in order that we might ſhare ſomething before we went. We played to a houſe of ſeven pounds, which was conſidered as a miracle. After the play and farce was over, and the accounts taken, I was prepared (being informed

formed by one of the performers that Stow intended not to ſhare, but keep all the money himſelf) to inſiſt on a diviſion of the receipts of the houſe; accordingly, as had been conjectured, our worthy manager putting the money in his pocket, turning to the Company, ſaid, with great ſang froid, " Well, gentlemen, we'll ſettle in the morning;" as the reſt were depending on him, they were afraid of ſpeaking againſt this motion; but, as I was quitting him the next morning, and had been the ſole means, by my application to the gentleman, of filling his houſe, I inſiſted that whatever ſhares were due to me and my wife, ſhould be inſtantly diſcharged; upon which, he replied, that I ſhould not have a ſhilling of the money, though he was conſiderably in my debt; exaſperated at the treachery and ingratitude of his conduct, I ſwore, that if he did not do that juſtice to our claims, which they deſerved, that I would cut all his ſcenes into ſtripes, which, on his refuſal, I did, though threatened by his wife, with Glou-

ceſter

ceſter gaol: I had provided myſelf with a large Gardiner's knife, with which I rent his flats and ſide ſcenes until they were all in fragments; upon which, Stow, his uncle, wife, and others, immediately attacked me; throwing away the knife, I defended myſelf, until they were glad to ceaſe; in the ſcuffle, having dropped my hat, I recovered it, but in what condition? torn in ſuch a manner by the women, that not a veſtige of the original form could be traced, neither mould, rim, cock, &c.—I had not a ſecond, nor money to buy one; ſo in the morn ing, as my dernier reſort, I went to a Grocer in the town, who ſold almoſt every thing, to whom I told my wretched ſituation, and ſhewed him Mr. Arthur's engagement; he informed me, I was welcome to the beſt hat in the houſe, if I never paid for it. He accordingly equipped me with a ſmart hat, and I and my wife ſet out with our wardrobe on our backs, from Wickwar to Bath, during which journey, from the decayed

cayed and broken ſtate of my ſhoes, I ſuffered little leſs than martyrdom, as the roads were chiefly compoſed of a hard flinty ſtone, and from my wife's fatigue, I bore her on my arm, at different times, upwards of five miles: At laſt, we arrived at Bath, and immediately procured a lodging, and the next morning, ſent a meſſage to Mr. Arthur, to acquaint him with our arrival, to which he returned a very polite card, inviting us to breakfaſt; we were received by him in the moſt friendly manner, and as we had only breakfaſted for ſome time paſt in imagination, or on the page of a play book, it is not to be wondered at, if we enjoyed our tea and coffee, which was excellent. Our converſation chiefly turned on the ſtage, and the viciſſitudes of thoſe that trod it for bread; he ſeemed well pleaſed with a few of my remarks, which were rather ingenuous, than ingenious, as I concealed nothing from him.

Pleas'd with our tale, the good man learn'd to glow,
And quite forgot our *follies* in our woe.

After breakfaſt, he ſaid, he hoped I would excuſe him, if he inſiſted on me drawing on him for an immediate ſupply, as he ſuppoſed I was not overburthened with what the poets called *pale yellow dirt;* his generous offer almoſt deprived me of the power of utterance; but as ſoon as I could recollect myſelf, I thanked him from the bottom of my ſoul, acknowledged that the Exchequer was rather low, but that I was not in immediate want, although, at the time, I was not maſter even of one ſplendid ſhilling. Without ſaying a word, he went to his bureau, and watched an opportunity of putting a few guineas into my hand. As ſoon as I felt the precious ore, my heart began to expand, and all my feelings to vibrate as freſh as ever; all the misfortunes that I had lately experienced, vaniſhed from my remembrance, like darkneſs at the dawn of day. As he ſaw that we were fatigued after our journey, he requeſted that we would refreſh ourſelves, and call on him the next morning. Having good lodgings, we walked out after dinner,

dinner, and took a ſurvey of the city. When the mind is on its centre, every thing charms; we pauſed on every ſcene that Bath preſented, and drank to the memory of good King Bladud, out of his own ſprings, and began to think that fortune was not quite ſo fickle, as ſhe is uſually repreſented by her votaries. The next morning, agreeably to promiſe, we waited on our worthy patron, for I think he deſerves to be called by that name. After breakfaſt, we repaired to the theatre, that he might hear my wife ſing on the ſtage, to the band. He was highly pleaſed with her voice; her notes, it is true, were untutored, and her diffidence rather ſeemed to add than to ſubtract from her vocal merit. I was alſo examined as to my muſical talents, by Mr. Richards, who led the band, but he did it in ſuch a gentleman like manner, that I felt myſelf quite at eaſe.

Mr. Linley performed at the time, on the harpſichord, in private; and I was afterwards told, that he attempted to diſ-

ſuade Mr. Arthur from engaging Mrs. Moore, as, it was ſuppoſed, he had an eye to that ſituation for his daughter, Miſs Linley, the late lady of R. B. Sheridan, Eſq. We were, at length, engaged, Mrs. Moore as a ſinger, at one pound five ſhillings a week, and myſelf in the orcheſtra, at one guinea, terms infinitely beyond our moſt ſanguine expectations. Mr. Arthur's kindneſs encreaſed daily, and, as a proof of it, he told me, that it was not his intention to bring out Mrs. Moore the beginning of the next ſeaſon, as he wiſhed in that interval, that ſhe would devote her time to the ſtudy of muſic, and to endeavour to get rid of her provincial accent, which would only require a little attention, but that her ſalary ſhould be continued; at the end of which, he flattered himſelf, ſhe would be fully qualified to make her *debût* in the character of Philadel, in the maſk of King Arthur, which he intended to get up, at a conſiderable expence. In addition to this, he told us, it was his intention to introduce us to Mr. Derrick, maſter of the ceremonies at Bath, which would

would be no ſmall advantage to us, as it was in his power to recommend us, occaſionally, to perform at public concerts. I was ſo overpowered by his kindneſs, that I was really at a loſs for words to thank him. He was as good as his word; I found Mr. Derrick one of your eaſy good-natured men, who had taſted of proſperity and adverſity, whoſe *ſummum bonum* ſeemed to be centred in his bottle and friend. We were inſeparable; and, as he is now no more, it is but juſtice to his memory, to ſay, that he availed himſelf of every opportunity to ſerve us. His intereſt at concerts was very great; at the firſt of which, Mrs. Moore was ſo much admired as a ſinger, that ſhe began to emerge into public notice. The proſpect now began to brighten, and we often amuſed ourſelves with contraſting our ſituation at Bath, with that at Wickwar. Money flowed in apace, and, as œconomy was not in the catalogue of our domeſtic arrangements, our expences kept pace with our income. The Briſtol fair commenced

during that ſportive period; the Bath theatre is cloſed for a month.

We took that opportunity of going to Worceſter, to aſſiſt at a concert for the benefit of Mr. Phillips, of that place. We were to be paid our mere travelling expences, but would not accept of any emolument, as he was an acquaintance of ours at Bath. We hired a one-horſe chaiſe, and arrived there, a day after our departure from Bath. We performed at the concert, to a crowded and brilliant audience, which was very much owing to my wife's celebrity; and, it being her native city, the report of her being from the Theatre Royal, Bath, and her ſinging at the concerts there, ſerved Mr. Phillips very much. At this place, a thought ſtruck me, that I conceived might be lucrative to us, which I inſtantly put in practice, as we had near a month before the theatre would open. I left Worceſter, and Mrs. Moore having attained a very happy manner of ſinging Italian ſongs,

which

which I had taught her, we went to Malvern-wells, only eight miles from Worceſter, where I had bills diſtributed, that " Signora Morini, late pupil to Doctor " Arne, accompanied by Signor Morini, " muſician from the King's theatre in the " Haymarket, London, being now making " the tour of England, will, on Monday " evening, perform a variety of choice " ſongs, ſelected from the principal Ora- " torios, Burlettas, Operas, &c. both Eng- " liſh and Italian; between each ſong, " will be performed a ſolo, or ſelect piece, " by Signor Morini. Admittance, two " ſhillings and ſixpence each." I then took a large room at the inn, in conſequence of an invitation I had received from the company then at the Wells, to perform one night there, as I had no idea of ſtopping at Malvern-wells, but only to have ſome refreſhment, on our way to Ledbury, where we intended to open; by accident, I ſhewed my landlord one of the bills, and aſked his opinion, if any thing could be done there; he informed me, he could not tell, but that

the company were then on the walks, and he would ſhew them the bill, which he did, and by great good-luck, ſhewed it firſt to an Iriſh gentleman, a man of fortune, then with a party on the parterre; the inſtant he read it, he exclaimed, "Oh! "by J——s, here we have Miſs Morini "and Signor Morini, come to give us "a concert; what do you ſay, ladies and "gentlemen, ſhan't we have them per-"form? I think it is very fortunate, as "we have no amuſements here;" they all joined in his opinion, and he was deputed to engage us to perform that night, which we did: the room was tolerably full of the firſt quality that was there; we gave great ſatisfaction, and the Iriſh gentleman called on me in the morning, and gave me a paper, which contained ten guineas, and would not ſuffer me to pay our bill at the inn, and ſaid the company conſidered themſelves as extremely obliged by our performance. I regarded this firſt ſucceſs, as an omen of future. Malvern was frequented in thoſe days, by ſeveral perſons of faſhion, on account of its

medical

medical waters, on the virtues of which, Doctor Johnſon, an eminent phiſician in Worceſter, has written a very ingenious treatiſe. The ſituation is, indeed, delightful, the proſpect on every ſide, pleaſing, —verdant vallies ſprinkled with purple heath. The celebrated Arthur, of whom, the Welch hiſtorians and bards make ſuch frequent mention, is ſaid to have kept his court here. Having ſprained my leg, I was adviſed to keep to my room for a day or two; in that interval, I happened to meet with a French work, and as it contained many pathetic ſtories, I tranſlated the following, by way of amuſement, which I take the liberty of laying before the indulgent reader.——

It was two o'clock in the morning; the almoſt exhauſted lamp in the the court-yard gave but a glimmering light, and I was retiring to my apartment, when I thought I heard a noiſe at the foot of the ſtaircaſe; I called out, twice, who's there? what are you about? and was anſwered by a ſoft and touching voice, it

is

is I, don't you ſee that I am waiting for him; as I was not the perſon who was expected, I was walking away, when the ſame voice called to me, pray come here, but don't make a noiſe; I approached, and near the laſt ſtep, behind the pillar, perceived a young woman dreſſed in white, with a black ſaſh, and her hair falling in diſorder on her ſhoulders; I never did you any harm, ſaid ſhe, pray don't hurt me; I have touched nothing; I am here in a corner where I cannot be ſeen; this injures nobody, but don't ſay any thing about it; don't mention it to him, he'll come down preſently, I ſhall ſee him, and then I'll go away.

My ſurprize increaſed at every word ſhe ſpoke, and I tried, in vain, to recollect the unfortunate creature; her voice was perfectly unknown to me, as well as whatever I could diſcover of her perſon; ſhe continued to ſpeak, but her ideas became ſo confuſed, that I could diſcover nothing but the diſorder of her head, and the diſtreſs of her heart.

I interrupted

I interrupted her, and endeavoured to bring back her attention to our ſituation; if ſomebody elſe had ſeen you, ſaid I, before I did, at the foot of the ſtaircaſe? Ah! ſaid ſhe, I ſee, very well, that you do not know all; he, alone, is ſomebody, and when he goes away, he does not, like you, liſten to all he hears, he only hears her who is above; formerly, it was I, now it is ſhe, but it will not laſt, oh! no, no, it will not laſt; at theſe words ſhe took a medallion from her boſom, and ſeemed to examine it with attention.

A moment after, we heard a door open, and a ſervant holding a light at the top of the baluſtrade, enabled me to diſtinguiſh a young man, who tripped lightly down ſtairs.

As he paſſed, his hapleſs victim was ſeized with an univerſal trembling, and, ſcarcely had he diſappeared, when the reſt of her ſtrength forſook her, and ſhe fell on the lower ſtep, behind the pillar that concealed us; I was going to call for

aſſiſtance, but the fear of expoſing her prevented me, and I took the poor creature, ſenſeleſs, in my arms; the ſhutting of the door above was then heard, ſhe ſtarted at the noiſe, and ſeemed to revive a little; I held one of her hands in mine, and, with the other, ſupported her head; ſhe tried to ſpeak, but the ſounds ſhe endeavoured to utter were ſtifled by her grief; we remained ſome time in a ſilence, which I did not dare to interrupt, when, at laſt, having entirely recovered the uſe of her ſenſes, ſhe ſaid to me, in a ſoft and faultering voice, oh! I ſee very well, I ought to have warned you; the accident that has juſt happened to me muſt have made you uneaſy, for you are good and kind; you muſt have been afraid, and I am not ſurprized at it; I was like you, I was afraid too; when I found myſelf in this ſituation, I thought I was going to die, and I feared it, for that would have deprived me of the only means of ſeeing him, which is all that I have left; but I have found out, yes, I have found out, that I cannot die; juſt

now,

now, when he paſſed by, I felt myſelf to go to him; if he died, I ſhould die too, but without that, it is impoſſible; we only die, where we live, and it is not in myſelf, but in him, that I exiſt.

Some time ago, I was mad; oh! yes, very mad indeed, and that will not ſurpriſe you, as it was in the beginning of his going up this ſtaircaſe; my reaſon is now returned, every thing goes and comes, and ſo does that; this medallion which you ſee reſtored it to me; it is a portrait, but it is not that of my friend, what good would that do? he is very well already, he has no occaſion to improve, he has nothing to alter; if you did but know whoſe portrait it is, it is the wicked woman's above ſtairs, the cruel creature; what trouble has ſhe given me, ſince ſhe approached my heart? it was ſo content, ſo happy—but ſhe has deranged and deſtroyed all: One day, I recollect it very well, I happened to go, alone, into my friend's room—alas! he was no longer there; I found this portrait on his table,

I took

I took it, ran away with it, and ſince that, I am better. After ſaying this, ſhe began to laugh, talked of the public walks of phaetons and horſes, and I once more perceived a total confuſion in her ideas.

Some moments after, when ſhe left off ſpeaking, I drew nearer to her, and aſked, why ſhe preſerved, with ſo much care, the portrait of *that wicked woman above ſtairs?*

How! (anſwered ſhe) what, you do not know, why it's my only hope; I take it every day, put it by the ſide of my looking-glaſs, and arrange my features like her's; I begin, already, to look very much like her, and, by taking pains, I ſhall reſemble her exactly; I will then go and ſee my friend, he will no longer be obliged to go to her above ſtairs; for, except that I am ſure he likes me beſt, only think on what trifles our happineſs depends, on ſome features which he found no longer diſpoſed to his liking; why did

did he not ſay ſo? I would have done then, what I do now, and he would not have been obliged to apply to a ſtranger; nothing was more eaſy, and it would have ſaved us both a great deal of trouble, but without doubt, he did not think of it.

Every evening, I wait at the foot of the ſtaircaſe; he never comes down, before the convent-bell has ſtruck two, and then, as I can't ſee, I count the beatings of my poor heart: Since I have been in poſſeſſion of the portrait, I count, every day, ſome pulſations leſs; but it is late, and I muſt go from hence; adieu. I accompanied her to the ſtreet-door; as ſoon as without, ſhe turned to the left, and I walked on ſome paces with her; ſhe then ſuddenly fixed her eyes on the ſtream of light which the lamps formed before us; you ſee all thoſe lamps, ſaid ſhe, they are agitated by every breath of air;* it is the ſame with my heart, it

* The lamps in France are hung on lines, extended acroſs the ſtreet.

burns

burns like them, but they conſume, and I burn for ever.

I continued to follow her; ſtop, ſaid ſhe again, return home; I carry away with me a part of your ſleep, and I am to blame, for ſleep is very ſweet, it is even ſo to me, I ſee in it what is paſt.

I feared to afflict her, by inſiſting any longer, and left her; however, my fear that ſome accident might happen to her, made me follow her with my eyes, as I walked on gently behind; ſhe ſoon ſtopped at a little door, went in, and ſhut it after her; I returned home, my mind and heart equally agitated, and this unfortunate creature continually before my eyes; I reflected on the cauſe of her misfortune, and ſome regret, and the remembrance of ſome paſt circumſtances, were mingled with my tears; I was too much affected to hope for reſt, and, while waiting for day-light, wrote down the ſcene to which I had been witneſs.

As

As ſoon as I recovered from my ſprain, we ſet out for Ledbury, as we were reſolved to huſband every hour. On our arrival in that town, we found a Company of Comedians in it; Mrs. Cunningham was managereſs, a woman of excellent dramatic taſte; I was ſorry to find, however, that the houſes were rather thin. After the play, I invited the whole corps to ſupper, acquainted them with my plan, and, in order that our nights ſhould not interfere, as they performed on Mondays, Wedneſdays, and Fridays, it was ſettled that I ſhould confine my concert to Thurſday; they wiſhed me every ſucceſs, and on the Thurſday following, I opened to a genteel audience. We ſet out the next day to Chepſtow, about 28 miles from Ledbury, in order, as the opening of the Bath theatre was approaching, to pay a viſit in the interval, to Briſtol. We performed at Chepſtow, to very good houſes, for three nights ſucceſſively; we then went over the new paſſage by water, to Briſtol, and arrived at Bath only in time

for our duty at the theatre, which opened immediately after the receſs of the Briſtol fair; nothing remarkable occured during that ſeaſon, until the long vacation of four months, when, finding the Moreo ſcheme much better adapted to our purſe and wandering diſpoſition, we determined to take the remainder of our tour through the weſt. The firſt place we opened at, was the city of Wells, twelve miles from Bath; here we performed three nights under the roof of the cathedral; as there was a regiment of ſoldiers quartered there, and the officers were much attached to our entertainments, we had crowded rooms every night. From Wells, we proceeded to Bridgewater, at which place we arrived the day after the races, when the town was very full. We performed in the town hall, at twelve o'clock the next day, to an audience, the receipts of which amounted to £. 31. In the morning, juſt before the performance began, Mr. Sparrow, of Briſtol, a gentleman of large fortune, came to me whilſt I was arranging the muſic books, and aſked

aſked me, where Signor Moreo was? I anſwered, " Sir, my name is Moreo," upon which, he burſt out into laughter, ſaying, " my blood! here we are finely " tricked, that a number of ſuch faſhion- " able people ſhould be thus impoſed " upon; why, Signor Moreo, you are " a downright Engliſhman;" I told him, that I was not an Engliſhman, but that I wiſhed as well to the nation, as any man that ever was born in it; upon which he left me, and went to Captain Proby, of the navy, to whom he related what had paſſed betwixt us, and deſired, as Captain Proby had been up the Mediterranean, and ſpoke Italian, that he would confront me, to which, the Captain agreed, and addreſſing me in Italian, ſaid that I had got a very fine violin; to which I replied, in the ſame language, that it was a good one, but that I had one much better, if he would be ſo kind as to try it, adding, that it was no ways uncommon for a gentleman to amuſe himſelf with one at a concert; upon this, he turned round to Sparrow, and de-

clared he was entirely wrong, for, that I was as certainly an Italian, as he was an Engliſhman; Sparrow then told him, that if I was an Italian, that I was a d——d clever fellow, as I ſpoke Engliſh with as good an accent as either of them; upon which Mr. Sparrow came up to me, and apologized for his ſuſpicions, and declared that he was convinced of his miſtake. The entertainment then went on, and finiſhed with conſiderable applauſe; amongſt the ſongs was introduced the favourite Iriſh ſong, called Ellen â Roon, which my wife actually ſung with the Iriſh words, and which were received as Italian, with unbounded applauſe, and ſhe was obliged to ſing it three times in that performance; Mr. Sparrow then requeſted, that as an expiation for his rudeneſs, I would ſtop until the next evening, when he deſired a repetition of the performance, after which he would give a ball, which I thankfully agreed to; he iſſued tickets to all his friends, and ſent to Taunton-Dean for ball muſic, and I cleared fifty pounds by that night.

night. I then quitted Bridgewater, and went to Taunton Dean, where I opened in the town hall, and received fifty pounds the firſt night; for my affair with Mr. Sparrow, having ſpread immediately, we were received with *ecclat*, by the inhabitants; we performed there five nights, the worſt night of which, was £.15; here I found my pockets ſo much recruited, that I ventured on a phaeton, which, I may literally ſay, I bought for a ſong, as the Coachmaker who ſold it me took the whole amount out in tickets; there was at the ſame time a ſale of caſt horſes belonging to the regiment called the Scotch Greys, a pair of which I purchaſed, for the ſum of ſix guineas. This proved a cheap and reſpectable mode for me and Signiora Moreo to travel, as the very appearance of this equipage, when we entered a town, enſured us a crowded audience. We continued our excurſion through the weſt, with amazing ſucceſs, until the Bath vacation was over, and the Company again aſſembled at Bath. We then came to the Bath theatre, and

finding that during our excurſion Mr. Arthur had been prevailed upon not to give us ſo warm a reception as we expected, chiefly owing to the inſinuations of Mr. Linley, who apprehended my wife might prove a rival in the muſical line, to his daughter. I was rather pleaſed at this, as I conceived great expectations from our Moreo ſcheme, and had been planning a trip to Scotland, which we immediately put in practice, after a ſtay of about three months at Worceſter, with my wife's friends.—— We then ſet out on our northern tour, and performed at every town of any conſequence. At Preſton, we were the means of reconciling the townſmen to each other; Preſton was divided into two parties, on account of a difference of opinion on a late election, and which raged with ſuch a degree of violence, that neither would ſpeak to, or aſſociate with the other, until we opened, when the two parties met in the large room where we exhibited, and by the mediation of a few diſpaſſionate remarks, were reconciled;

conciled; we performed here three nights, to very crowded and ſatisfied audiences. Nothing remarkable occured in any other place, until we came to Glaſgow, where, after playing three nights, I engaged two muſicians to aſſiſt me, as at a concert and ball, which I had that night, after the firſt piece of muſic was concluded; the Earl of Kelly, the famous Scotch compoſer, made his appearance in the room; as his Lordſhip was a moſt capital performer, and the patron of all muſic in that country, the inſtant my aſſiſtants ſaw his lordſhip, they laid down their inſtruments (ſecond fiddle and baſs) and ſwore, "the de'el dom their ſauls, gin "they'd play another ſcrape, for there "was my Lord Kelly;" in conſequence of this, I was obliged to proceed, ſolus, and, at the concluſion of the firſt act, I addreſſed my Lord, and told him, "I "depended on his Lordſhip's excuſing "the mutilated ſtate of the muſic, as I "had been ſuddenly diſappointed in the "aſſiſtance of two muſicians, who, the "inſtant they ſaw his Lordſhip, refuſed

" to proceed ;" he very obligingly anſwered, " Sir, I requeſt you will make " no apology; upon my honour, I think " you have infinite merit, and ſo has the " lady, and when at Edinburgh, if you " will favour me with your company for " a month or two, I ſhall be very happy;" I returned his Lordſhip my thanks, and promiſed to take an opportunity of doing myſelf that honour. Shortly after, I went to Edinburgh, where we lived entirely at the Earl of Kelly's expence, by whoſe intereſt, we were engaged to perform in the concert there, then conducted in the moſt brilliant ſtile. On my return to England, I took all the Yorkſhire races in my way, and, beſides our performances, by always taking the odds, I won upwards of eighty pounds, though I could not boaſt the leaſt knowledge of the turf. Leaving Yorkſhire, we went into Warwickſhire, where, at Stratford on Avon, at the ſecond night of our performance, Mr. Garrick came down to arrange matters for the jubilee, which was to begin the next day; he was at our entertainment, and complimented

complimented us at the concluſion, with an invitation and tickets for the jubilee, which has been ſo often deſcribed, that I ſhall omit a repetition of it. Coming ſtill forward, we arrived at Rugby, in the ſame county, where the noted Kate Craven, (ſiſter to the celebrated George Alexander Stevens) had a Company of Comedians; ſhe was in great diſtreſs, and having advanced her ſome money, in order to endeavour to retrieve her circumſtances, which failing, ſhe aſſigned a part of the Company to me; after providing ſcenes, dreſſes, and the reſt of the theatric apparatus, I commenced manager, and opened with the Company at Rugby, where the buſineſs was very poor, owing to a mediocrity of talents, and an exhauſted town, Mrs. Craven being very much in debt.—— I took the Company thence to Daintry, where there happened nothing extraordinary as to occurrence or receipts. We performed in different parts of Warwickſhire, with various ſucceſs. Finding I was loſing conſiderably in theſe

places,

places, I took the Company to the town of Tewkſbury, in Glouceſterſhire, where, for a length of time, the magiſtrates had not permitted any to perform, but, as I could perform without permiſſion, by virtue of an act in the twenty-ſecond year of George the Second, which enacts, "that all officers, mariners, and ſoldiers, "that have ſerved his Majeſty, ſhall ſet up "ſuch trades or occupations as they are "moſt apt for, and, thoſe who oppoſe "them, ſhall pay double coſts of ſuit." I ſoon found that the magiſtrates intended to hurt me, as much as in their power; however, I employed a carpenter of the name of Warren, to erect a temporary theatre, but before Warren had built it two feet from the ground, the magiſtrates, in order to make me fly the town, ſent an invitation to Thornton and Robinſon, then managers of a Company in a neighbouring town, to come to Tewkſbury to oppoſe me, and promiſed them their patronage; they accordingly came, and proceeded with the greateſt alacrity, to erect a temporary theatre at the

the other end of the town, by the permiſſion of the magiſtrates. I was obliged, from a want of caſh, to give my notes, payable by inſtalments, to Warren, my builder, for erecting the theatre, and materials to the amount of £.63. All my Company, at this time, lived and boarded at Mrs. Ward's, who kept a public-houſe in the town, where we had, from the length of time we were waiting for the houſe to open, ran up a bill to the amount of £.40; Thornton and Robinſon told all my creditors, that I was undone, and they would loſe all their money; Warren, in conſequence of this, refuſed to go on with the theatre, until I ſhould advance him money, or ſecurity; Mrs. Ward, our hoſteſs, alſo declared ſhe could not give any more credit, and inſiſted on being paid her demand. In this dilemma, a thought ſtruck me, which was, to go to Warwick, where Mr. Kemble, father to the celebrated John Kemble, Eſq; and Mrs. Siddons, had a Company, and with whom I had formerly been acquainted, which I inſtantly did,

did, having borrowed a horſe, and ſet out, ſcarce a penny in my pocket to pay turnpike. I never ſtopt till I arrived there, (only ſixteen miles) and immediately went to the Woolpack, the theatrical houſe; I ſent a note to Mr. Kemble, who I informed of my ſituation; as I had diſcovered that Tewkſbury was a town, Kemble had long wiſhed for; I propoſed to him, that if he would ſend part of his Company to reinforce mine, and advance a little money to complete the theatre, and ſet matters a going, that he ſhould have half of the profits, and all his expences paid, and that, on my going off, I ſhould deliver him up the town; his wife, whom it ſeems he conſulted, with much difficulty, conſented to let me have what I deſired, but would not truſt me with the diviſion of their Company, but agreed, that they ſhould immediately quit Warwick without benefits, and go to join my Company at Tewkſbury, in which he was much more influenced by the wiſh of routing Thornton, &c. and, of eſtabliſhing a theatre

there

there himſelf, than any deſire to ſerve me; however, to my very great amazement, and of all thoſe who heard of it, he intruſted me with a fifty pound note, to go immediately to Tewkſbury, to ſet Warren a going, preparatory to his arrival; I had not informed one of my people, not even my wife, of the purpoſe of my journey, conſequently, Mr. Inchbald and others deſerted, and went over to Thornton and Robinſon, upon the ſtrength of the old adage, "fly from a ſinking "ſhip;" at the end of two days, I returned, and, to the agreeable ſurprize of my Company, and the no ſmall vexation of the reſt, I changed, by Mrs. Ward's aſſiſtance, the £.50 note, gave Warren £.30, Mrs. Ward £.10, and ſecurity, and divided the remaining amongſt the Company. Kemble inſtantly ſet out from Warwick with all his ſtage equipage, ſcenes, dreſſes, &c.; I muſt here ſtop to remark, that the town, at that time, contained theatric gentry, I mean, from the hero, to the candle ſnuffers, and their appendages to the number of ninety-ſix.

Kemble's

Kemble's name was a tower of ſtrength, and we were ſhortly joined by Mrs. Siddons, who was not then in much eſtimation. We continued there three months, playing with ſuch ſucceſs, that Thornton and Robinſon fled the field, as they found that all oppoſition was in vain. Finding the town almoſt ſacked, we reſigned it; after paying every ſhilling of debt, we divided £. 30 each, after paying all ſalaries, beſides allowing the ſalaries for my wife and me. During the time I ſtayed there, and juſt before our departure, Mr. Collins, of Birmingham, who then had a Company at Dudley, borrowed ten pounds from me, and promiſed to pay me in a few days, (which I have never received ſince.) I then parted with Mr. Kemble, and went with my Company to Monmouth, where we played during the race week very ſucceſsfully. We went thence to Ledbury, where the Company were on ſalaries; the buſineſs was there ſo very poor, that the payment of the ſalaries, and no receipts to enable me, had quite exhauſted my

my ſmall ſtock of caſh, yet, rather than ſuffer them to go without their pay, or the buſineſs to be impeded, I actually went to Hereford, unknown to the Company, and depoſited a quantity of valuable articles, with ſome jewels of my wife's, with a Jew there, as ſecurity for a ſum of money; however, this ſhared the fate of the former, and was ſoon exhauſted by the Company I had to maintain. In this ſituation, and reduced almoſt to the laſt ſhilling, I applied, by letter, to a Mr. Nurſe, late Captain of a man of war, and then on half pay, and a man of great influence, ſoliciting his patronage to deſire a play, in order, to relieve me from the load of expence under which I lay; at the ſame time, I acquainted him, that I had ſerved as a man of war officer, but, ſince the peace, was out of commiſſion; I delivered this letter myſelf, in the morning, and told the ſervant, that I ſhould call in half an hour for an anſwer; at the end of that time, I returned, and found him ſtanding before his door, in his morning dreſs; he knew me by the

the deſcription the ſervant had given, and very politely accoſted me, deſiring me to walk in and breakfaſt, and to make myſelf comfortable; I thanked him, but informed him, that I could not be comfortable in my mind, under the uneaſy ſenſations I then felt; he told me very kindly, that any thing in his power, he would certainly do, and aſked, why I left the navy, to turn manager? I anſwered him, that it was from neceſſity, as the nation was then at peace, I could get no birth as a man of war officer; he then gave me permiſſion to publiſh his name, by beſpeaking a play, and gave me ten guineas, and deſired me to ſend him the amount in tickets, and that he would make me a houſe; I returned him my grateful thanks, and took my leave; I then advertiſed, and when the night came, had upwards of £. 25 in the houſe, which was then, a moſt welcome ſupply; between the play and farce, he took me into the pit, and introduced me to two ſingle ladies, (married names of — — — —) and told me, that they

they would both beſpeak a play, and that their patronage would effectually ſerve me, which they both did, and I had two more overflowing houſes. I, at this time, as well as my Company, were noticed by the gentlemen of the town, and I had frequent invitations to card aſſemblies, balls, &c. It was cuſtomary to walk under the town hall, in rain, when ſome of the gentlemen of the town meeting Fowler and Comerford, two of my Company, were congratulating them on the great houſes we had; Fowler, in order to ruin me in their good opinion, ſaid, "aye, Sir, the houſes are, indeed, very "good, but the manager takes care we "are not to be benefited by it; there was "£. 37 in the houſe the laſt night, and "we had but 3s. 6d. each." This ſtory ſpread immediately through the town, and I thought I perceived a coolneſs towards me by the gentlemen; however, my benefit being in a few nights after, when I had every reaſon to expect a crowded houſe, I had no more than three guineas; I determined to know the reaſon

of this uncommon deſertion of my friends, and, accordingly, the next day meeting ſeveral of the gentlemen, was lamenting, " I had not the pleaſure of their Com- " pany, laſt night, at my benefit, as there " was neither ball nor party againſt me;" they immediately replied, " why, Mr. " Moore, ſhould you ſuppoſe we would " patronize you, when you uſe your per- " formers ſo ill, after the houſes you " have had, to only give them 3s. 6d. each, " and reſerve the reſt for yourſelf" (for they had no idea of ſalaries, as all the Companies that had been there were ſhares;) after hearing this, my aſtoniſh- ment ceaſed, and I endeavoured to excul- pate myſelf from the charge. I informed them, that " they knew how long I had " been there, playing to almoſt empty " benches, and ſometimes ſcarce what " paid the lights and muſic; in all " that time, as my Company was on " ſalaries, I had every thing to pay, by " which means, and a continuance of " bad houſes, I was almoſt ruined, and, " as a proof of this, produced the depo-

ſit

" ſit of the jewels at Hereford, and that " in all that time, they never had to even " to aſk for their ſalaries, as every Satur- " day, at twelve o'clock, they were paid; " and that I could prove by my books " I had not cleared ſixpence ;"—this matter being inſpected into and approved, the tables were turned on Fowler, who, when his benefit came on, had but forty ſhillings, and Mrs. Moore's, which immediately ſucceeded, had near as many pounds ; I then diſcharged Mr. Fowler, in conſequence of his conduct to me. At this time, I received a letter from Collins, to whom I lent the ten pounds, dated from Dudley, who informed me, he was then going to Ireland, to take advantage of what was then called the white-waſhing act, and deſired I would go to Dudley, to take the management of his Company from his nominal wife, and to pay myſelf. Accordingly, I went to Dudley with the remainder of my Company, and Mrs. Moore; when we arrived there, I was looked upon, by

Mrs. Collins, (ſo called) as an invader of her property, though I did not intend to take her Company from her, but to ſee how the town was for buſineſs. I found it a good one, and got into ſeveral clubs there; I had a very fine horſe, which I had bought at Monmouth races, and rode off to Bewdley and Clibborn Mortimer, to collect performers; I was in great haſte to return to Dudley in time for the club, where I arrived but a ſhort time before they broke up; my horſe was, by hard riding, all in a foam, which I obſerved, told the groom of the inn, to walk him about, covered with a blanket, that he might cool gradually. There happened that very evening to be a Birmingham rider robbed on the ſame road, of a conſiderable ſum of money, by a man on horſeback; Mrs. Collins hearing of this, went that night, before a juſtice of peace, of the name of Woodcock, at Eales Owen, and made oath, ſhe believed me to be the robber, for that I kept an elegant horſe, and had no means of ſupporting it, that I had that morning aſked her

her for a guinea, which ſhe refuſed, and that peeping through the keyhole of my door, when I was going to bed that night, ſhe ſaw the table entirely covered with gold; the juſtice too readily believed this perjured wretch, who had done all this, to get me out of the town, he immediately iſſued a warrant, of which the conſtable who bore it, took my word for appearance next morning; when I appeared, the juſtice ſeemed to collect the whole of his *dedimus poteſtatem* in his countenance and his voice, neither of which, by the bye, were the moſt dignified; it was in vain to attempt to ſay any thing in my own defence, he would not liſten to me; as ſoon as the clerk made out my *mittimus*, he ſigned it, without ſo much as once caſting his eye over it; I was immediately conducted to Worceſter caſtle, in order to remain till the aſſizes. It is eaſier to conceive than paint the various ſenſations I experienced on this occaſion, conducted to priſon like an infamous felon, and loaded with chains; ſcarce dare I reflect, though reflection frequently preſſed me

to contraſt thoſe happy moments when I mounted my phaeton, and drove my greys with all the dexterity of Sir John ——, levelled with the duſt, obliged to feed on the vapours of a priſon, and to mix, whether I would or no, occaſionally, with the very outcaſts of ſociety; my health impaired; my only conſolation was in my innocence, and that it would fully appear on the day of my trial. The governeſs of the caſtle was a very good kind of woman, and though inured to the ſight of wretchedneſs, ſenſibility ſtill found a ſeat in her breaſt. At the time, there was a regiment of militia quartered in the city, and if my memory ſerves me, the Colonel's name was Dodſwell, whom I had the honour of being acquainted with in America, and who had repreſented Worceſterſhire in parliament. I addreſſed a letter to him, in which I drew a very affecting picture of my ſituation; on the receipt of my letter, he came to ſee me, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Lechmere, and the reſt of the officers; Colonel Dodſwell took great pains to enquire into the

particulars

particulars of my affair, and I was happy to find, that he was convinced of my innocence, the immediate reſult of which was, that he deſired Mrs. Crane, the governeſs, to have my irons ſtruck off, and as the offence was bailable, he offered, with Colonel Lechmere, to become my ſurety. The governeſs wiſhed that ſhe might be ſaved harmleſs, and that every thing might be done according to law; her requeſt was complied with, and Mr. Clements, a very reſpectable magiſtrate at Worceſter, was applied to, in order to admit me to bail; he ſaid, he ſhould be very happy to comply with the requiſition, but thought it would be beſt to apply for that purpoſe to the juſtice that committed me, on which they were ſo very kind as to go to Eales Owen, the ſeat of Mr. Juſtice Woodcock, who accepted the bail. The inſtant I was liberated, after pouring out my gratitude to my worthy friends, I ſought the firſt opportunity of drowning my ſorrows in a ſparkling bowl.— During my confinement, I was viſited by many of Mr. Kemble's Company, then

at Worceſter. The officers of the militia carried their kindneſs ſo far, as to inſiſt on my having a benefit in the city, which Mrs. Kemble, at firſt, refuſed, as a thing that was not cuſtomary, but this was over ruled by my kind benefactor, the Colonel, who informed her in a very peremptory manner, that if ſhe did not immediately comply, ſhe ſhould not play there any longer. Having conſented, my benefit was fixed, ſo that from gold tickets, and a crowded houſe, I netted ſixty pounds. The aſſizes, at length, came on, and Mrs. Collins abſconded, I was, of courſe, acquitted, to the general ſatisfaction of a very crowded court. Lord Coventry, and the gentlemen of the county, took ſo much intereſt in my affair, that they did every thing in their power, to puniſh Juſtice Woodcock, and Mrs. Collins, but the juſtice, as he ſaid himſelf, had got to the weather gage of the law, and it is much to be lamented that ſuch villainy ſhould eſcape unpuniſhed, through any defect in our legal code, by which an innocent man, on the oath of a perjured

jured wretch, may be thrown into a loathſome priſon, where, if he ſhould have the good fortune to eſcape with his health, his character is at ſtake. To return, as I had left my horſe at graſs at Dudley, when I was committed to gaol, I hired another at Worceſter, for the purpoſe of recruiting a dramatic corps; towards evening, I overtook a man within a few miles of Hinkley; as night was approaching, I took the liberty of aſking him, whither he was bound? he told me, to Hinkley; as we were within a few miles of it, and as he ſeemed fatigued, and as I had ſpared my grey charger, I preſſed him to get up behind me; he thanked me very kindly, but would not accept my offer. When I got to Hinkley, I ordered ſupper, and ſoon after, retired to bed; as I lay over the gateway of the inn, I was awakened about midnight, with the groans of a perſon that ſeemed to be wounded, and in a few moments, I heard a perſon knock with a feeble hand at my chamber, I called out, and was anſwered; I thought I recollected

the

the voice, and on a little reflection, was convinced that it came from the perſon whom I had overtaken on the road: I admitted him, and learned that he had been exhibiting ſome wild beaſts at a neighbouring fair, that in conſequence of a diſpute with his wife, who had a good deal of the tigreſs in her, he had decamped with his *menagerie*, which he had ſent before him to the inn, whither he followed on foot, with all the money he could collect, but ſhortly after I had quitted him, he had been attacked by a man on horſeback, and another on foot, who had robbed him of all his caſh, to the amount of twenty guineas, and not content with robbing him, had wounded him in different parts, and left him for dead; but what was my amazement, when the deſcription of the robber and his horſe, exactly tallied with myſelf and my gelding; I really began to think that the old gentleman in black owed me a long grudge, and that he was determined to pay it off without intermiſſion; I gave myſelf up for loſt, eſpecially when I

heard

heard the landlord ſay, " he was then " in the houſe, and in bed, and that " the very grey horſe was in the ſtable;" wrapped up like a ſtoic in inſenſibility, I knew not what to think, much leſs to ſay; the landlord, and a few others, deſired that the man who had been robbed, would look at my horſe, in order, that he might recognize him, whilſt the figure and colour were freſh in his memory; he did ſo, but words cannot expreſs my joy, when, on his return, I heard him ſay, that it was not the ſame horſe, that the one the robber rode, had a long tail, and other marks that he noticed very particularly, which convinced him that it was not the ſame animal; beſides, added he, the gentleman that rode the horſe in the ſtable, behaved very civilly to me, as he ſaw I was fatigued, he invited me to get on behind him, and I wiſh I had accepted his kind offer. Theſe words made me quite eaſy, and in a few minutes I dropped aſleep. In the morning, I breakfaſted with my landlord, who related the whole in a very particular manner,

manner, and was ſo candid, at the ſame time, as to tell me, that he thought it was me, and was ſorry for his miſtake; I thanked heaven for my lucky eſcape, for if the poor man had taken it into his head to have ſworn to me and my horſe, the late affair at Worceſter, would be of no ſervice to me. I mounted my horſe, and arrived at Painſwick, where I ſoon collected a Company. In this Theſpian group, I numbered Mrs. Wells, whoſe maiden name was Davies. I opened at Painſwick, where, in a ſhort time after, Mr. Wells, led our celebrated cowſlip to the altar, in the fourteenth year of her age. They quitted my Company ſoon after. Mr. Stephen Kemble was alſo of the number. Having played a few nights with various ſucceſs at this place, we repaired to Stroudwater; I ſoon perceived that it contained a good deal of faſhion and taſte, and, in order to finiſh a good bill of fare, I ſet out for London, and engaged Mrs. Hartley and Mr. Bland, late deputy manager of the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. They continued with me only till the

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opening of the theatre at Edinburgh, which took place ſoon after. Our ſucceſs at Stroudwater was beyond our expectations; as ſoon as the Company was broke up, I went to Briſtol.

The city of Briſtol is very extenſive, and well adapted to trade; it is filled with ſo many families from Ireland, that it is not unaptly called an Iriſh colony. The Buſh Tavern, oppoſite to the 'Change, is allowed, by travellers, to be one of the fineſt in Europe. The church of Saint Mary's Redcleffe, is univerſally admired for its architecture. The father of the immortal Penn, the legiſlator of Pennſylvania, lies buried here. Briſtol gave birth to the divine Chatterton, whoſe untimely fate cannot fail to draw tears from the moſt obdurate; it is not to be ſurprized, that he ſhould be neglected by his native city, as poetry is not an article of commerce—commerce that ties up the heart ſtrings with the purſe ſtrings. As I have touched on this ſubject, I hope I ſhall be excuſed, if I introduce what I think

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an appoſite paſſage from a celebrated French writer, on the moral inconvenience of trade, eſpecially when carried beyond its limits.

Cette nouvelle ame du monde moral (commerce) s'eſt inſinuée de proche en proche, juſqu'à devenir comme eſſentielle à l'organiſation ou à l'exiſtence des corps politiques. Le goût du luxe & des commodités a donné l'amour du travail, qui fait aujourd'hui la principale force des Etats. A la vérité, les occupations ſédentaires des arts méchaniques, rendent les hommes plus ſenſibles aux injures des ſaiſons, moins propres au grand air, qui eſt le premier aliment de la vie. Mais enfin, on eſt encore plus heureux d'énerver l'eſpece humaine ſous les toits des atteliers, que de l'aguerrir ſous les tentes, puiſque la guerre détruit quand le commerce crée. Par cette utile révolution dans les mœurs, les maximes générales de la politique ont changé l'Europe. Ce n'eſt plus un peuple pauvre qui devient redoutable à une nation riche. La force

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eſt aujourd'hui du côté des richeſſes, parce qu'elles ne ſont plus le fruit de la conquête, mais l'ouvrage des travaux aſſidûs & d'une vie entiérement occupée. L'or & l'argent ne corrompent que les ames oiſives qui jouiſſent des délices du luxe, au ſéjour des intrigues & des baſſeſſes, qu'on appelle grandeur. Mais ces métaux occupent les bras & les doigts du peuple ; mais ils excitent dans les campagnes à réproduire ; dans les villes maritimes, à naviguer ; dans le centre d'un Etat, à fabriquer des armes, des habits, des meubles, des édifices. L'homme eſt aux priſes avec la nature : ſans ceſſe il la modifie, & ſans ceſſe il en eſt modifié. Les peuples ſont taillés & façonnés par les arts qu'ils exercent. Si quelques métiers amolliſſent & dégradent l'eſpece, elle s'endurcit & ſe répare dans d'autres.

During my ſtay in this city, I paid a viſit to the late well known Mr. Winſtone, who partly lived by letting lodgings at the Hot-wells. Perhaps it is not generally known that he was the *protegé* of that

that friend of merit and diſtreſs in every line, Mr. Quin, who, though far inferior to him in theatrical powers, was often permitted to his convivial circles, and permitted to feaſt with him on *John Dory*, on account of the ſimplicity of his manners, and the goodneſs of his heart; from this intimacy, *Dick* uſed to relate many pleaſant ſtories of Quin, all of them either more or leſs to the credit of his benevolence. Winſtone once had a quarrel with his manager, and leaving the London ſtage abruptly, contrary to the advice of Quin, went ſtrolling into Wales. After two years abſence, on his return from Swanſea to Briſtol by ſea, he was near being drowned, having met with a ſtorm which ſtranded the ſhip, by which he loſt all his clothes, and what little money he had in his ſtrong box. In this ſituation, he ſcrambled up to London, and getting to one of his old haunts about the garden, went to bed, and ſulked for two days without getting out of it. Quin, by accident heard of his ſituation, and immediately called on the manager, had Winſtone

ſtone put in his uſual ſalary, and his name actually announced in the bills for the next night's performance. He then called upon his taylor, who having Winſtone's meaſure, took him to Monmouth-ſtreet, and bought him a full ſuit of clothes. Thus prepared, Quin called upon his old friend, whom he found in bed very melancholy; the ſight of Quin, however, revived him, and he raiſed his head off the pillow to acknowledge the kindneſs of the viſit. After ſome converſation, in which, poor Winſtone related his misfortunes, Quin aſked him, why he did not attend rehearſal? This, at firſt, aſtoniſhed poor Winſtone, who began to imagine all he had related was a dream. Matters being explained, however, he dropped on his knees, held up his hands, and expreſſed his gratitude in a copious flow of tears; but zounds, my dear Jemmy, ſaid Winſtone, "what ſhall I do for "clothes, and a little money?" "As "for clothes," ſaid Quin, "there they "are, but as for money, by G—— you "muſt put your hand in your own

" pocket." Winſtone experienced his friend's humanity even in this expreſſion, for, on putting his hand into the breeches pocket, he found ten guineas. Old Winſtone never told this unaccompanied with tears. He lived very happily, as he had ſaved ſome money in his earlier days. He was the perſon whom the inimitable Fielding had in his eye in his " Tom Jones," where Partridge panegyrizes the repreſentative of the King in " Hamlet." After having paid a handſome compliment to Mr. Garrick's acting, by making this humorous and ridiculous character declare, with ſome contempt, that he ſhould have been frightened juſt in the ſame manner at the ſight of a ghoſt; Partridge aſks, which of the actors he likes beſt? To which he is made indignantly to reply, " the King, without " doubt;" talk of Hamlet! Ho, the King for my money; he ſpeaks all his words diſtinctly, and half as loud again as the other; " any body may ſee that " he is an actor." The performers at Briſtol generally gave him a yearly benefit, which,

which, as he had many friends, turned to good account. On three nights, he ſpoke an occaſional prologue, written by a gentleman of London, of acknowledged taſte and abilities, the publication of which would not fail to add to the credit of that ſpecies of writing.

The very appearance of the ſhipping charmed me, and I began to think of the ſea once more; a maſter or mate's birth would have ſatisfied me, but the difficulty was to part with my wife, who had ſhared in all my diſtreſſes. At length, after much difficulty, I prevailed on myſelf to communicate my intentions to her. Words cannot deſcribe her diſtreſs. I began to reaſon with her, but it was in vain; I painted the difficulties we had experienced, and the uncertainty of theatrical purſuits; the proſpects that opened themſelves to my view in the line I was about to embark in, and the pleaſure that we ſhould enjoy on my return; her obſervations, and all that I endeavoured to ſay, were artleſs and affecting,

and as they flowed from the heart, reminded me of *Emma*'s anſwer to *Henry*, on a ſimilar occaſion.

Did I but purpoſe to embark with thee,
On the ſmooth ſurface of a ſummer's ſea;
While gentle zephyrs play with proſp'rous gales,
And fortune's favours fills the ſwelling ſails;
But would forſake the ſhip and make the ſhore,
When the winds whiſtle, and the tempeſts roar.

With much ado, I prevailed on my wife to go to her friends in Worceſter; I accompanied her as far as Bath, as I intended to pay my reſpects to Mr. Derrick and Mr. Arthur, before I ſet out; I informed them of my intention; they approved my plan, and Mr. Derrick aſſured me, he ſhould be always ready to ſerve me. As I could not procure any ſituation that pleaſed me, I took my paſſage for Leghorn, in hopes of procuring a commiſſion in the Tuſcan ſervice. I wrote to my wife, that if ſucceſs ſhould crown my wiſhes, I ſhould immediately ſend for her. As I had ſome caſh, I was determined to enjoy a little of the amuſe-

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ments of Leghorn. I met with ſeveral acquaintances, and was happy to find that abſence had not extinguiſhed the friendſhip they had formerly expreſſed for me; perhaps no place at the time ever furniſhed ſuch a rapid ſucceſſion of amuſements; I was preſent at many of them, but cannot ſay that they intereſted me as much as I expected. I was highly charmed with an event which had taken place near this port, a little before my arrival.——

A Neapolitan being at work in a field bordering on the ſea-ſhore, his wife, who was ſome diſtance from him, was ſeized by the corſairs of Tunis, and carried aboard their veſſel.

The Neapolitan threw himſelf into the ſea, ſwam to the ſhip, and intreated the Captain to take him in.

The good man knew he would be ſold as a ſlave, and the conſequent miſeries and hardſhips he ſhould undergo, but

love for the object who had hitherto ſhared in his labours, and enjoyed with him the fruits of his induſtry, predominated over all other ſenſations. While the Turks were aſtoniſhed at his temerity, he continued ſupplicating to be taken on board; he told them, that the woman they had taken from the field, was his wife; "we have," continued he, "long "ſhared happineſs, and we can bear mi-"ſery together; grant us the only conſola-"tion of being ſold to the ſame maſter, "is all I aſk; deny me that, and one "grave, I truſt, will ſoon contain us."

The Turks admiring the man's affection, on their return, told it to the Bey of Tunis, who being pleaſed with this ſingular inſtance of conjugal fidelity, not only gave them their liberty, but each a place in the palace.

I believe, I need ſcarce ſay, that Leghorn is a free port, and, of courſe, the emporium of the Italian trade. The city is ornamented with a profuſion of churches, embelliſhed

embelliſhed with ſome of the fineſt productions of the pencil; ſuch a diſtribution of light and ſhade, ſuch graceful attitudes, the ordonance ſo regular, the contour ſo ſoft, the aſſociation of the figures ſo admirably, that in the great number of objects preſented to the eye, it could fix on none, but what had its proper place and juſt dimenſions. The ladies of the higher claſſes are elegantly formed, and well acquainted with every art that can heighten their native charms; they are amorous, but entirely unacquainted with all the delicacies and refinement of love. The citizens, in general, are exceedingly ſober. The ſtreets ſwarm with eccleſiaſtics, remarkably ignorant, mere ſcioliſts in all the arts. Medicine is very little cultivated, notwithſtanding they boaſt, and with juſtice too, of Morgagni, and Cavallo. The environs are enchanting; flowers in ſuch gay confuſion, that I am not in the leaſt ſurprized at the encomiums of travellers and writers on Italy, which Pope Ganganelli compared to a fine picture, and the Alps

to the frame. I am really at a loſs that Strabo, one of the moſt accurate geographers that ever exiſted, and Pliny, ſhould differ in their account of that country; the firſt ſays, that it is fortified by nature, and, of courſe, the moſt difficult of acceſs to an invader; the latter aſſerts the contrary.

I was highly charmed one day, in a converſation which happened to turn on the merits of Shakeſpeare and Racine, to find a young Frenchman, who had lived many years in England, enter the liſts as the champion of the Britiſh bard, which he did with ſo much ingenuity and ſucceſs, that I ſwore if ever I ſhould be ſo lucky as to meet him on the banks of the Avon, that he and I ſhould not part 'till we drank a bottle under the ſhade of the mulberry-tree, which the poet had planted with his own hand. After this, perhaps the reader will pardon me, if I preſent him with the concluding part of the eulogy which he pronounced on our poet.

" Avouez,

" Avouez, du moins, que jamais poëte
" ne joignit à une idée ſi parfaite des
" paſſions, des humeurs, & des ſentimens
" du genre humain ; une imagination plus
" riche, plus hardie, & plus *créatrice ?*
" Qu'il peint tous les charactères, depuis
" les héros & les rois, juſqu'aux cabara-
" tiers & aux payſans, avec la même vi-
" geur ? Que ſi la nature humaine étoit
" détruite, & qu'il ne reſtât aucun monu-
" ment, excepté ſes ouvrages, d'autres
" êtres pourroient ſavoir, par ſes ecrits,
" ce qu'étoit l'homme ?"

The laws of Tuſcany were multifarious and contradictory, but I underſtand that the Great Duke has iſſued a new code of criminal laws, which is ordered to be obſerved in all his dominions. It conſiſts of one hundred and nineteen articles, by which capital puniſhments are aboliſhed, as having been found to leave too ſlight an impreſſion on the minds of the people for the prevention of crimes, and more viſible and permanent ſufferings ordained

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in their ſtead. Torture is prohibited. Confiſcations are declared unjuſt, as involving the innocent with the guilty. Proportionable penalties are inflicted for ſlight offences, and a more equitable mode of trial is eſtabliſhed, particularly with regard to evidence.

Soon after the publication of this new code, a man condemned to the gallies for a moſt inhuman murder, endeavoured to perſuade the companion to whom he was chained, to eſcape with him; but upon his refuſal, he took an opportunity of picking up a large ſtone, with which, notwithſtanding his chains, he maſſacred his companion, in the preſence of the guard. So horrible a deed, under ſuch circumſtances, almoſt overcame the Great Duke's humane temper. He immediately ordered a gallows to be erected in the moſt public part of Piſa; but his Imperial Highneſs countermanded the order for his execution, and the criminal was ſentenced to a more excruciating and laſting

puniſhment,

puniſhment, that of being immured within four walls, where, almoſt unable to move, he was left to ſpin out a miſerable exiſtence.

Having obtained a commiſſion as ſecond in command aboard a very fine galley, and received, as was cuſtomary, a large premium for accepting it, we went out on a ten days cruiſe; on return, I was invited to dine with the Britiſh Conſul, Sir John Dick, and a number of Engliſh officers. In the courſe of the converſation, I found that the veſſel in which I ſerved, was rigged out and ſupported at the ſole expence of thoſe unhappy women, whoſe innocence and beauty had fallen a ſacrifice to the arts of ſeduction.——My heart beat to arms, and all the generous paſſions, in an inſtant, revolted at the idea; ſcarce could I be reſtrained from flinging my commiſſion in the face of him that preſented me with it. I changed my uniform, and determined to return to England without delay.

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An opportunity ſoon preſented itſelf for that purpoſe; I took my paſſage with Captain Riddal, of the Lion, Letter of Marque.

As ſoon as I landed, I made the beſt of my way to Worceſter, where my wife was quite overjoyed to ſee me. I ſoon collected a Company, and ſet out for Reading, in Berkſhire, and was preparing to open, when the Mayor ſent to inform me, that he could not poſſibly permit a Company in the town. As I had been at a vaſt expence in collecting a Company, I informed his Worſhip, that I was entitled to perform under the act of the twenty-ſecond of George the Second, or to follow any other buſineſs; he ſaid, I had better wait on Lord Cadogan, who lived within a few miles, and who was the leading man in that neighbourhood; I accordingly took his advice, when the following converſation enſued,——— "So "Sir, you are the maſter of the players; "pray were you not appriſed that I would "not ſuffer any players in Reading;"

"my

" my Lord, I was not appriſed of any " ſuch thing, but, as I have brought my " Company, and fitted up a theatre at a " great expence, I wiſh to go on, or I " ſhall be ruined in my circumſtances;" upon which he ſaid, " that I ſhould not, " and ſending his ſervant up ſtairs for " his pocket-book, laid a twenty pound " note on the table, and deſired me to " take it and my Company away;" " I " thanked his Lordſhip, but aſſured him, " that ten ſuch notes would ſcarcely in- " demnify me, and that I was entitled " by virtue of the act to proceed;" " he " then deſired me to do what I choſe, " but that he would take the firſt advice " on it, and do all he could to prevent " me." I then took my leave, and his Lordſhip, after applying to all the limbs of the law in Reading, ſent up to London, and laid the whole before the Attorney General, from whom he received ſuch an opinion, that he found I had a legal right to open; upon this, his Lordſhip changed his mode, and attacked me for having

having routs, balls, &c. every night we played, till at laſt, from my having very good houſes, he was completely foiled, and after playing with great ſucceſs, I quitted Reading with my Company, and went to all the principal towns in the weſt, in all of which I played, except Exeter and Plymouth. I then took my Company to Falmouth, where I opened, and played with tolerable ſucceſs. At this place, I received a letter from a perſon who ſigned his name B———e, requeſting an engagement, informed me that his figure was good, and that he hoped to make himſelf uſeful to me; I wrote by return of poſt, that I would make an opening for him, and that he might come, and I would, if he deſerved it, take every method of bringing him forward. In a few days, he came to join the Company at Falmouth; I found his real name to be B——tt, the ſon of a barber in Taunton Dean, who uſed to dreſs the players; he hoped, I did not think the worſe of him, in conſequence of

of the humble line in which he had lately moved; I anſwered in the words of Pope,

> Honour or ſhame from no condition riſe,
> Act well your part, there all the honour lies.

He bowed with all the ſubmiſſion imaginable, and promiſed, that if I would take him into the theatre, that he would exert every nerve to merit my favour. Accordingly, I ordered him to be enrolled on the Theſpian liſt. The houſe where I lodged had the honour to entertain, at the time, the juſtly celebrated Doctor W———t, better known by the name of Peter Pindar, whoſe ſportive muſe cannot fail to charm, as long as genuine humour, and refined taſte exiſt. At the ſame time, I alſo became acquainted with another genius, not leſs celebrated in the ſiſter arts, Mr. Opie, the magic of whoſe pencil ſtands in no need of panegyric:——A Turk had been caſt away at Falmouth; ſeveral perſons went the next day to viſit him; through curioſity, I went amongſt the reſt. Not urged, indeed, by that powerful

powerful motive, I had learned ſomething of the Turkiſh language at Smyrna, and hoped I ſhould be able to render him ſome ſervice as an interpreter; young Opie came with us, and immediately took the outlines of the honeſt Muſſulman's countenance; the contour, though apparently ſketched with careleſſneſs, was ſo ſtriking, that the very tone and expreſſion was acknowledged by every perſon that had ſeen the original. Doctor W——t filled it up a little. The Turk went to London, and the Royal Society approved ſo highly of, I may ſay, the firſt efforts of Mr. Opie's mimic powers, that ever ſince he has been rapidly advancing in fame and fortune. I left Falmouth with my Company, and went to Penzance, from thence to St. Ives, where I experienced a very great oppoſition from the Mayor, who had been an old lieutenant in the navy, and had an inveterate antipathy to players; however, I played there, in oppoſition to him, by virtue of the act already recited, and we had very good houſes. At this time, my friend, Mr. B——tt, alias B——e, became

came ſo ambitious, that he aſpired to the firſt characters, which were then filled by a gentleman much better calculated to ſupport them, and had actually made a party amongſt the gentlemen, in order to ſupport his pretenſions; they came and deſired, that he ſhould play the firſt parts, or line of buſineſs; knowing at the time, that his powers were too feeble, (though much improved) I refuſed it; on which they inſiſted he ſhould, or that they would abandon the theatre; I replied, "gentlemen, this Company is mine, and, "as it is not leſs my duty than inclina-"tion, to provide proper entertainments, "I ought to be the beſt judge of that, "and, accordingly, I have provided ſuch; "nor will I ſuffer Mr. B——e to at-"tempt, what is, at preſent, out of his "reach, as in that, I ſhould fail in my "wiſh to provide ſuitable entertainments "for the audience, and hurt my own "intereſt, and the receipts of my houſe." Mr. B——e, upon this, refuſed to play any more, and the gentlemen of the town inſiſted on my giving him a benefit, to

enable him to join ſome Company, or to go to Plymouth; this, I poſitively refuſed, but ſaid, I would pay for a horſe and guide for him to that town, and give him a couple of guineas to aid in bearing his expences; he refuſed the offer of my *giving* him two guineas, but propoſed, that I ſhould *lend* him five, which he would certainly repay me; I knew I ſhould loſe more by his ſtaying with me, ſo gave him the five guineas, and got rid of him; which ſum, as I expected, I have never received ſince; he now plays at Covent-garden theatre. After he went, we ſtill continued playing, at which time, the Tartar privateer was fitting out at Penzance, for a cruiſe; I purchaſed an eighth ſhare in her, for which I gave drafts to the amount of £.300, payable at different times, and was to have ſailed in her as Captain, upon which the magiſtrates (who, with my old enemy, the mayor, were inveterate againſt me) aſſembled at the town, and declared, that as the act extended only to my Company, when I was at their head, that if I quitted them,

them, that they would ſend the women to Bridewell, and the men to ſea; this account made me relinquiſh all hopes of going out, as I could not think of ſurrendering my Company to the mercy of thoſe gentlemen; ſo we continued playing, and a curious advertiſement appeared at the bottom of the bills:— it ſtated,— "that an eighth in the Tartar privateer, "with quadrants, ſea implements, cheſt, "and bedding, would be ſold by the "manager;" after we had played for a conſiderable time, I propoſed to my Company to quit the country entirely, and to go to Oſtend to play there, to which they all unanimouſly agreed with great joy. Accordingly, I took them all to Plymouth, and engaged a neutral veſſel (as at this time there was a Dutch war) to carry us all over, and ſhipped my ſcenery, &c. on board; when the time for embarking arrived, I found, from various excuſes of the men, and fears of the women, that I could muſter but three or four; however, there was no alternative, and go we muſt, as the veſſel was

under weigh. When we arrived at Oſtend, I had no permiſſion from the Baillieve of the town, or from Sir John Peters, the Engliſh Conſul, to play, as the French Company were in poſſeſſion of the theatre. I waited on Sir John, and ſolicited his protection, which he very generouſly promiſed, but informed me, that I could not play at the French theatre, until I had the permiſſion of the Emperor, Joſeph the Second, who was daily expected to preſide (according to form) at the courts there. Accordingly, I determined to wait till that period, and, in a few days, his ſiſter, the Archduchеſs, arrived in Oſtend, to officiate as his ſubſtitute, as he could not attend in perſon. At this time, Captain Frederick, formerly of the guards, happened to be confined there for debt; his creditors in England allowed him one guinea per day; he cauſed a memorial to be delivered to the Archduchеſs, for liberty to quit Oſtend, and to go to India over land, at the ſame time that I had preferred a petition for leave to play in the French theatre

theatre alternately with the French Company. When the princeſs held the firſt levee, I attended, dreſt in my beſt ſtock ſuit, ſcarlet and gold; when I came to pay my duty on my knee, ſhe ſaid, (miſtaking me for Captain Frederick) in French, "Sir, I have read your memorial, and "I grant the prayer of it;" I returned her Highneſs my moſt grateful thanks, and took leave. Her ſecretary, who was preſent, thought ſhe meant my patent, inſtantly made it out, and I was put in poſſeſſion of the French theatre, and opened to a crouded houſe; the firſt night, the play was the Buſy Body; Mrs. Baker, late managereſs of the Windſor theatre, played Patch; I mention her here, becauſe a very curious circumſtance attended her playing it; ſhe had a diſpute with her huſband that day, and near the time of the curtain riſing, refuſed to come to the theatre; as I knew her diſpoſition, and that nothing but force could bring her, I went round the boxes to Sir J. Peters, and told him the whim of this lady, and that the play could not go

on, and requeſted a file of ſoldiers to bring her; he very obligingly complied, and gave his cane as a token to the Commandant to let me have a guard; I then took them to her lodgings, when finding perſuaſion, as I expected, uſeleſs, I called up the guard, and told her, I would not be ruined for her whim, and that ſhe muſt either come and act her part, or go to the black hole; finding me reſolute, ſhe choſe the former, and played Patch that night. I was much liked at Oſtend, and frequented the firſt Company. Happening one day to go into a Coffee-houſe there, to my ſurprize, I ſaw Davy Oſborne, an old acquaintance of mine, now a manager in Bedfordſhire; I accoſted him by name, which he denied, but, upon my ſaying, I could not be miſtaken, he told me, privately, to go on the ramparts, and he would follow me; I found, on our comparing notes, that he came there on ſpeculation for a theatre, that he had a Company in England, and that as I had got the theatre, he wiſhed to join,

and

and he would go over and bring his Company to reinforce mine. I conſulted my Company, and they agreed, at once, to the propoſal, as in fact, we were in want of performers then. Oſborne accordingly went, and ſhortly returned with his Company. We played away to tolerable good houſes, when a circumſtance happened that had great influence in altering my affairs :——I had made merely a Coffee-houſe acquaintaince with an Engliſh merchant, a Mr. Greenwood, (ſuch a friend as appears but once in a century) who, in the courſe of converſation one day, aſked me, why I did not throw up the theatrical buſineſs, and turn merchant, as from my knowledge of ſeafaring people, ſpeaking the languages, &c. I was ſo well calculated for it? my reply, was, that I believed I might do very well, but that want of caſh prevented it; " if that be the only impedi-
" ment," ſaid he, " that ſhall be no
" obſtruction, I will advance you £. 1000
" to ſet you afloat," and deſired me to
" look out for a houſe; I thanked him

for his generous offer, but did not imagine he was ſerious, as I was almoſt a total ſtranger to him; however, next day, I met him at the Exchange, and aſked him, "if he had recollected his propoſition? that I had met with a houſe "that would juſt ſuit me;" he ſaid, he would go ſee it; the rent one hundred Louis-d'ors a year, to be taken for three years certain, and a year's rent down. He ſent for a notary, had the leaſe drawn, paid the fine, and gave me a bill for £.500 on the bank of Paris, to ſtock my warehouſe; accordingly, I did, and immediately gave up my ſcenes, &c. to Oſborne, only reſerving to myſelf and family, four tickets for each night. Mr. Greenwood was, at this time, leaving Oſtend to go to Paris, and ſent for me to his hotel, where his carriage was in waiting to carry him thither; he then told me, that (pointing to a chaiſe) he had £.300 worth of French crowns in it, that they would incumber him in travelling, and deſired me to bring them to my houſe to keep for him

him, (which I did) and to make uſe of them if I wanted them; he then ſet out, and deſired me to meet him in Paris in a fortnight, to introduce me to the lace merchants, and to ſettle my credit there. I accordingly met him in that city at the appointed time, and by his recommendation, opened an unlimitted credit. He then left Paris, and deſired me to meet him in Holland, where, at Amſterdam, Rotterdam, &c. he done the ſame as in Paris, and at parting, deſired me to draw on him for any ſum. I returned to Oſtend, and fortune ſmiled on me for a length of time, until, from unforeſeen loſſes, and ſhips being taken, which had great part of my fortune, and others ſunk, I foreſaw my failure; I wrote to Mr. Greenwood, letting him know this; he anſwered, by return, not to mind it, that ſuch things were common in trade, and to draw on him for any ſums, which I declined, as my failure was inevitable, and I ſhould injure a man that had been ſo ſingular a friend to me. Loſſes accumulating, I failed to a conſiderable amount

but

but not one of the merchants my friend Mr. Greenwood had recommended me to, ſuffered by it. I delivered up all my property, which was divided amongſt my creditors, and left Oſtend.

After my failure, I went to Dunkirk, in company with Mr. Oakley, (a merchant who had formerly reſided there) he ſaid, he would introduce me to a Mr. William Lane, of that place, who had been in an extenſive line of buſineſs in London, (a very expert man) but misfortune had forced him to withdraw. I ſoon became acquainted with him; he introduced me to a Mr. Benjamin Pope, informing me, that he was a gentleman poſſeſſed of an immenſe property in ſpecie, and would be my friend to retrieve my credit, by lending me a ſufficient ſum on my own ſecurity, to go on again at Oſtend. Accordingly, Mr. Pope ſhewed me a vaſt quantity of ſpecie in an iron cheſt with three locks, placed in the room where he and I ſlept, with a brace of piſtols to protect each.

When

When he had thoroughly found out my ſituation, he ſaid, deſperate diſeaſes required deſperate remedies, and what he propoſed to me before Billy Lane, I muſt make oath to execute, or that it ſhould never tranſpire; I ſtarted at an oath being propoſed, and replied, if my word and honour cannot be taken, I ſhall drop all thoughts of any further connection; to this reply, Mr. Lane obſerved, that my friend (Mr. Oakley) informed him, I had been an enterprizing man, who would readily agree to any eligible plan to get money. My new acquaintance then ſaid, I have a plan to propoſe, which will be the making of us all three, but you muſt never divulge it; well, ſaid I, that you may rely on, ſo proceed Sir, I am impatient to hear it; the plan is this, I will buy a brig, (now for ſale) you ſhall be maſter of her, ſhe ſhall be freighted with ſugar, (which is a valuable commodity in France) I will go with you to London for that purpoſe, then underwrite her for a conſiderable amount, friend Lane ſhall have a ſmall privateer out off Calais,

you

you muſt leave the convoy in the night, (for which we ſhall have proper ſignals) by this ſcheme, we ſhall fix the underwriters, and divide the prize amongſt us, and, by repetitions of the plan, in time, become men of opulence; — I anſwered, I don't approve of this plan, therefore, will not be concerned in it. You ſay, your caſe is deſperate, replies old Ben, if ſo, it is the ſureſt and moſt ſpeedy method to relieve you, but if you are timorous, and ſtick at trifles, you'll be always needy and wretched; a man in your ſituation ſhould not heſitate to rob the mail; you ſay right, cries Lane, puſillanimity will always keep a man low, look round you, and ſee how many brave fellows reſide now here and in Oſtend, who, from nothing, raiſed themſelves by their cleverneſs; — there's no exiſting now by plain dealing, and the honeſt fool muſt ſtarve, whilſt the men of the world (as we ſtile ourſelves) live like men. At that inſtant, the poſt-man interrupted the diſcourſe, with a letter to Ben, from Calais, which informed

formed him, that one of his privateers (a French one) came into that port, and that the commander (one Thompſon, a North Briton) had given her up, fearing he might be taken, and hanged for a pirate. Ben aſked then, what countryman are you, Sir? I replied, an American; then you are right, my boy, now your fortune's made without any ſcruple of conſcience; you ſhall take his commiſſion, and, as you are well acquainted with the Channel, you may ſoon pick up a few prizes; and I have a greater plan, that will inſure you a rank and fortune in France; I anſwered, Sir, I cannot give an immediate anſwer to this, for I muſt wait the anſwer of ſome letters which I hrve ſent to Lord Keppel, of the Admiralty, for a reinſtatement of my former ſituation in the navy, (as an acting lieutenant) if I don't receive a ſatisfactory anſwer, I may give your laſt offer a thought, and perhaps, put it in execution. We immediately took coach for Calais, where I ſaw this ſmall privateer, and the next evening, received a letter

(by

(by way of Oſtend) from his Lordſhip, informing me, that I could not be immediately commiſſioned, but if I choſe to go on board one of his Majeſty's ſhips as midſhipman or maſter's mate, I ſhould, in courſe of time, be provided for. In anſwer to this, I wrote, it was too late at my years to go as midſhipman, &c. and if I could not be reinſtated, humbly hoped his Lordſhip would not condemn me for accepting a commiſſion in my own country's ſervice, for I was an American. To this, I had no reply, ſo agreed with my friend Pope, but not to go in the ſmall lugſailed veſſel Thompſon had; we held a conſultation with ſome of the merchants of Calais, and it was agreed on, that I ſhould purchaſe one in England; for that purpoſe, I went, and met with one, an elegant yacht, (formerly Judge Buller's) a beautiful faſt ſailing veſſel. When I gave advice to Pope of the purchaſe, he deſired I would pay £. 300 of the purchaſe money of which I was ſhort, and he would repay me on my arrival. He ſoon got a French commiſſion, and I procured

procured an American one, alſo, had a ſea-brief from the Emperor, (which ſervice was neutral) ſo that I ran into any port under Imperial colours, and the greater part of my men being French, when examined, paſſed for Flemings. The cruiſe was left to my direction, only I was to run, occaſionally, into Plymouth and Portſmouth, to obſerve the ſtrength and deſtiny of the fleets, and give inſtant intelligence of any thing important to France. I went into ſeveral ports under Flemiſh colours, undiſcovered, ſaw public aſſemblies, plays, &c. even anchored in Brighthelmſtone Bay, at a time when the London Comedians were there, (the bathing ſeaſon) and being on ſhore, ſaw Mr. Booth, of Covent-garden theatre, (known to me formerly) which happening on the day of his benefit, took half a dozen of tickets for myſelf and my officers; in the evening, I happening to be in a box next to that in which the Duke and Ducheſs of Cumberland, General Carpenter, and other perſons of rank filled, heard his Royal Highneſs expreſs a great deſire to

ſee Lord Howe's fleet by ſea, (then at Spithead, ready for the relief of Gibraltar;) I took the liberty to inform his Highneſs, that I could fulfil his wiſh, having an elegant yacht in the road, at his command, at the ſame time, aſſured him, he would be ſecure from any enemy, as I had a ſea-brief, then in my pocket, from the Emperor of Germany, under whoſe banner I was protected. When I mentioned my name, his Highneſs inſtantly recollected me, (from a circumſtance that happened at Windſor theatre) and enquired into the manner of my obtaining that veſſel and ſea-brief; I informed him, I was a merchant of Oſtend, and that was a yacht of ſpeculation. The weather being clear and ſerene, a moderate E. S. E. breeze, and a proſpect of its continuance, his Highneſs agreed to embark next morning, and ſent a boat off ſhore with proviſions, wine, &c.; my boat was alſo ready on the beach to receive his Royal Highneſs and attendants, when General Carpenter diſſuaded him from going, ſaying, the weather ſeemed unſettled, and he had better

go

go by land to Portſmouth; his Highneſs thanked me for my offer, ordered twenty guineas to the crew for their trouble, and took the General's advice. That tide I ſailed, and anchored in Lord Howe's fleet at Spithead; officers came on board to overhaul and examine the men, (part of whom were ſtowed away under a falſe deck) and on producing my ſea-brief, they did not examine ſtrictly. I frequently rowed under the Admiral's ſtern, kept company on ſhore with the officers, obtained the ſignals of the fleet, ſtrength, &c. The morning the fleet ſailed round the Iſle of Wight, I ſailed through the needles, and retired into my cabin to reſt. I had not one moment's eaſe of mind or reſt at Spithead, for, had I been taken on ſhore with the ſignals, &c. about me, I muſt, to a certainty, have ſuffered as a ſpy.

I left orders with my lieutenant, not to ſpeak with any veſſel, but to ſtand over to Havre de Grace, but unfortunately for me, one Captain Foſter, of Bridport, fell

in our way; ſhe was a Falmouth veſſel, and would prove a good prize; as we were cloſe along-ſide of her, my lieutenant begged of me to ſuffer him to take her; at length, I reluctantly complied; on boarding the veſſel, the Captain, his wife, with two of his men, came on board of ours. I ordered to ſtand for Havre, and not to make any night ſignals. We paſſed through the fleet undiſcovered; next morning, the lieutenant called to me, and ſaid, an Engliſh frigate was ſpeaking our prize; I ordered him to make ſail for Havre; I came on deck with the ſpy-glaſs; I looked upon her to be a French ſhip, not from her having the colours of that nation, but from being French rigged; I ſhortened ſail, and came under her counter; I was hailed in French, by a Guernſey pilot, who deſired me to hoiſt my boat over, and come on board; I anſwered, I was weakly manned, but if they would ſend their boat, I would go on board; accordingly, they did, and when I came, I ſtill imagined her to be French, on account of her rigging,

and

and the name ſpelt the ſame in Engliſh, as French, " Eurydice;" the men who ſpoke Engliſh to me, ſaid, they were Americans; they kept up the deluſion until the Captain came on deck, whom I immediately knew, and he me; ſhe was commanded by the Honourable Auguſtus Courtney; my ſudden and unexpected ſurprize is beyond deſcription; his treatment, at firſt, was rather harſh, but, on expoſtulation, finding I was a native of America, and having convinced him I had offered my ſervices in the Britiſh navy, he treated me very genteelly, ordered me to meſs with the officers in the gun-room. The maſter, Mr. Brown, was formerly a ſhipmate of mine in the Buckingham, but did not treat me with that kindneſs I expected, ſaying, he looked on me to be Iriſh, as I drew bills on Ireland, when in the Weſt-Indies. I ſoon convinced him to the contrary, ſo that we ſpent our time as agreeable as my ſituation would admit.

I continued on board three weeks, in which time we cruiſed in the Channel; the ſquadron rendezvouſed at Guernſey and Weymouth; I was put on ſhore at the latter place, where my officers and people were admitted on parole. Commodore Lockart Roſs commanded the ſquadron, and when he came into Guernſey, he ordered me on board the Eurydice again, without any one belonging to me, not even my own ſervant. I was put on ſhore at Weymouth, and delivered to the care of Mr. Stewart, Mayor of that place, a gentleman with whom I had formerly been acquainted; at firſt, this was the worſe for me, for he treated me as a pirate, and ſent me to a dungeon not more than twelve feet ſquare, on an earthen floor, where a common ſewer ran, well fortified by iron bars; a ſmall window, ſcarce gave light enough to write by. I ordered my dinner from the King's Arms tavern, part of which was a breaſt of veal; I ate at the window, not more than two feet wide, ſome of the bones falling on the ground, drew a numerous

merous company of rats from different apartments in and near the ſewer, ſo near, that they often got under my feet; as I had no weapon of defence, I pulled off one of my boots, with which I drove them off. I was allowed my cot and bed, which I laid on the ground to ſlumber on; I was not allowed a candle, or any thing to chear me in the dark. Next morning, as ſoon as I could ſee, I ſent for pen, ink, and paper; I wrote to Mr. Stewart, requeſting him to remove me to ſome wholeſome priſon; at the ſame time I addreſſed a letter to Lord Keppel, firſt Lord of the Admiralty; it was read to Mr. Stewart, ſealed by him, and ſent to the poſt-office, as no letter was ſuffered to go or come, but what was read by a magiſtrate. My *durance vile* was ſoon ſpread through the country; as I had a number of acquaintances in the neighbourhood, ſeveral of them came to ſee me, but none was admitted but the Reverend Mr. Digby, brother to Lord Digby, and the Admiral; he ſym-

pathized in my misfortune, and hoped I would make my peace with the Almighty, ſaying, I had but a ſhort time to prepare myſelf, it being the determination of the County, I ſhould ſuffer as an example, and that I was to be hung in chains on Studland Down, on an eminence, in ſight of the bay where I had captured the laſt veſſel; I informed his reverence, it was my wiſh to be always prepared for death, but, in my preſent ſituation, I was not the leaſt apprehenſive of it on that ſcore, and that the greateſt favour he could do me, would be to uſe his influence with the Mayor, to remove me, immediately, out of that noiſome cell. Soon after the Reverend Divine had left me, ſome wag made intereſt with the keeper to admit a Blackſmith, who ſaid, he was ſent to meaſure me for my irons, and he would take care they ſhould fit me; I had one of my boots in my hand, with the heel of which, I ſtruck him in the face with ſuch violence, that I nearly knocked out one of his eyes, ſo that Mr. Vulcan

Vulcan was glad to march off without executing his pretended orders. Soon after, a poſt-chaiſe came to the door, with two conſtables, a ſergeant's guard of dragoons attended, who eſcorted me to Dorcheſter. When I arrived, the ſtreets were crouded to ſee me, having been, formerly, welI acquainted there. When we drove up to the priſon gates, I was received by the turnkey, goaler, his deputy, and the finiſher of the law, vulgarly called, a hangman; the latter eyed me with a pleaſant countenance; I could hear him ſay to ſome of his colleagues, I was a tight little fellow, and my cloaths would exactly fit him. I was uſhered into the parlour, and ſeated in an arm chair, with the governor (as they called the goaler) at my right hand, the turnkey on my left, and Jack Kitch between my legs. The governor obſerved, I muſt be a little fatigued with my journey, and deſired to know what I would chuſe to drink, at the ſame time, he informed me, that wine or ſtrong beer, were only allowed in priſon, but he would

ſtrain a point, to let me have a glaſs of brandy, by way of a "*cheerer*," and, as garniſh was the cuſtom on entrance, hoped I would order ſomething for them to drink. I ordered a dozen of wine, and as much ſtrong beer as they ſhould chuſe. The governor informed me, that he kept an excellent table, and would take me as a boarder, ſaying, there were but two he could condeſcend to admit to that honour; they were immediately introduced to me; one was in confinement for forgery, and the other for highway robbery; we were very jovial until the bell rung to lock up the common felons in the cells, but gentlemen who could afford to board, might remain *ad libitum*. When he returned from locking up, he ſaid, he was very ſorry, that from the tenor of the order for my commitment, it being for robbing on the high ſeas, he was, in his own behalf, obliged to put me in irons, as in his time, or his fathers before him, they never had a gentleman ſo capitally committed, adding, that if I ſhould eſcape, he ſhould not only loſe his life, but it would be

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the ruin of his family. He ordered the turnkey to bring down a neat pair of irons, which he did; he ſaid, he favoured me very much, by putting them on with padlocks. My ſenſes were ſo much oppreſſed by the fatigue and ſhock I had received, that I was obliged to be carried up ſtairs to bed, with the turnkey, in a room that was hung round with fetters and chains diſpoſed on the wall in a variety of forms, whilſt the turnkey *amuſed* me with a very voluminous account of the trials, executions, &c. of my predeceſſors in that apartment, and in ſhewing me the different ſuits of iron in which ſuch and ſuch men were gibbetted. After he had, in this manner, exhauſted his pleaſing converſation, he performed the operation of ſhaving me; from the weight of my irons, I was obliged to lye on my back, whilſt he performed this diſagreeable office. The next morning, I was carried down to breakfaſt, when the jailor told me, he was ſorry to be obliged to put on ſuch irons, but hinted, if I made him a ſuitable preſent, he would take

them

them off, if I would pay a poor debtor for taking care of me by day, and ſleeping with me at night; I ſaid, I ſhould make him the preſent he required, and had no objection to pay the man that took care of me, but that he ſhould not ſleep with me; ſo it was agreed, he ſhould bring his bed into my room. I then gave him a bill of £.20 on Mr. Stewart who committed me, and, on it's being accepted, he took off my irons, and was going to put on a ſmall link, which I refuſed, telling him, I ſhould look like a ſheep ſtealer, and deſired him to return my bill, or to put no irons on me. This was ſo much money thrown away, for in leſs than three days, there were orders ſent for my parole. Shortly after my parole came, there was a detainer laid againſt me for a debt I had contracted at St. Ives, in Cornwall, for a privateer I had part in, out of that port, which immured me again in the priſon walls. I told Mr. Strickland, the under-ſheriff, that, as a ſtate priſoner, or priſoner of war, or on parole, that he could not

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legally impriſon me for debt; however, in March aſſizes, I was regiſtered in the calender, to be tried for robbing on the high ſeas; but Judge Gould informed the ſheriff, that the crime alledged againſt me, was not cognizable in a court of Aſſize, but in Admiralty; a few days after, Mr. Barm, of Doctors Commons, and one of the meſſengers of the Admiralty, came down, and ordered the jailor, at his peril, not to detain me a moment longer for the debt. I owed a bill alſo in the jailor's houſe, to about the amount of the bill I gave him for taking off my irons; this debt added to that from Cornwall, amounted to a conſiderable ſum, for which the ſheriff exerted all his power and influence to detain me in priſon; yet, from the ſpirited and manly conduct of Mr. Barm, who inſiſted, that as a ſtate priſoner, I ſhould not be detained there; and, that if the ſheriff would perſiſt in my detention, he would puniſh him ſeverely. The under-ſheriff intimidated by the threats, and convinced by the reaſons offered by Mr. Barm, that he could not

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be juſtified in detaining me, he reſigned me into Mr. Barm's cuſtody, and here I muſt digreſs from the thread of my narration, to pay a grateful tribute to the ſpirited, gentlemanly, and polite behaviour of this gentleman, who, during our journey from Dorcheſter to London, from a reliance on my honour, though his priſoner, and anſwerable for my appearance, never gave me reaſon to ſuſpect I was, or to lament my ſituation, nay, he would not even ſleep in the ſame room with me, but left me the entire maſter of my actions. On our arrival in London, I was immediately, (as there was a board ſitting,) conducted before the Lords of the Admiralty, where, after an examination of ſcarce a quarter of an hour, there being no grounds of accuſation found againſt me, in the opinion of the board, I was honourably acquitted, and received a ſuitable indemnification for the expence and loſs of time I had ſuffered in the buſineſs. When I had ſpent a few days with my friends in London, I went to Dunkirk, in order to get paid by Meſſrs. Lane and Pope,

Pope, (my two employers) the money I had expended on their account; Mr. Lane ſaid, he could do nothing without his partner, Pope, who was then at London, in the King's Bench. From thence, I went to Oſtend, and, to my great ſatisfaction, found Mr. Greenwood had got poſſeſſion of the effects delivered to him by Mrs. Moore, ſufficient to pay all I owed him. I failed conſiderably in Holland, but not to one to whom my friend, Mr. Greenwood, had recommended me. I applied, when I came to London, to Mr. Pope, in the King's Bench; he pleaded poverty, when at the ſame time, I knew him to be poſſeſſed of many thouſands; he offered me one guinea, which I refuſed with the utmoſt diſdain, and reproached him, as being the inſtrument of my advancing money amounting to £. 300, to the ruin of my credit, and conſequently, my fortune and connections as a merchant; before I quit this man's hiſtory, I muſt inform my readers, that he has ever ſince continued

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in priſon for debt, where he has accumulated, in addition to what he had, a fortune more that trebly ſufficient to pay his debts. What to do, at this juncture, I did not know, for though I had refuſed his guinea, I had not one in the world; diſconſolate and full of thought, I walked on without fixing on any ſettled plan, until I found myſelf in the midſt of Bartholomew-fair; awakened from my reverie, by the noiſe of carts, carriages, mountebanks, &c. in order to diſſipate the melancholy which had ſeized me, to ſeek a momentary refuge from diſagreeable ideas, I went to ſee ſome of the amuſements, and chance directed me to where the ſtone-eater was diſplaying his oſtrich-like appetite, to the aſtoniſhment of grinning ſpectators; a thought different from thoſe which juſt occupied my pericranium, inſtantly ſtruck me:——The ſtone-eater was quite a novelty, and I pleaſed myſelf with the idea of turning his powers of ſwallowing

ing to my advantage; he had an interval of two hours between each diſplay of his performances; I took him aſide, and bringing him into the Lock and Key, Smithfield, called for ſome porter and regaled him; I then aſked him, how much he earned there? He told me, two ſhillings each time he appeared; I told him, that if he would conſent to do what I ſhould propoſe, that I thought I ſhould be able to give him two guineas a week for very little trouble; he ſaid, he ſhould be a very happy man if I was ſerious of which I aſſured him; I then let him into my ſcheme, (which I here mention, to ſhew the fertility of human imagination, when put hard for the ſupplies) which was,——to bring him to Windſor, where the Court then was; I procured an antic dreſs made for an Indian character at a maſquerade, then lately given, after giving him every neceſſary inſtruction; I took a large commodious room, and fitted it up (entirely on credit) in an elegant ſtile, had numbers of hand bills ſtruck off, and carefully

carefully diſtributed at Windſor, ſtating, that at a cruiſe in the Levant, I had taken him off a ſmall uninhabited iſland near the Archipelago, where he had been caſt away, and lived for ſeveral years, until every thing edible failing on the iſland, he, at laſt, had recourſe to the eating of hard ſubſtances, ſuch as bark, wood, and ſtones, of which laſt, he digeſted a conſiderable quantity, inſomuch that he could eat nothing elſe; it was alſo added, that from his long ſecluſion from the converſation of men, that he had entirely loſt the uſe of his voice, and remained ever ſince, quite dumb. Such were the contents of this curious hand bill, which attracted ſuch a multitude of people, that I had an early overflow whenever I opened; I always came forward with the ſame ſtory, a little embelliſhed, and always ſent them away pleaſed. I was alſo honoured with the preſence of the King, Queen, and Royal Family. I ſuffered any perſon to feed him, and the rogue ſwallowed amazing quantities of ſtones and pebbles; at length, after driv-

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ing on this lucrative trade, till I had filled my pockets plentifully. I propoſed taking him to Reading, when he told me, that if he was to get fifty guineas a night, he could not remain ſilent any longer; of courſe, this knocked my ſcheme on the head, as his ſpeaking would quickly undeceive the ſpectators. So finding him obſtinately bent on making uſe of his voice, I made a preſent of five guineas to him, beſides his ſalary, and ſo our connection ended;——however, by his powers of deglutition, and my powers of face, I put upwards of one hundred guineas, after paying every thing, into my pocket. After this ſucceſsful adventure, I had formed ſuch an opinion of my managerical abilities, that I collected a Company of Comedians, and after taking the town in form, went to open at Great Marlow, in Buckinghamſhire. I had, previous to my going, bought ſome very good ſcenes, well executed, (in water-colours) which I left until I ſhould ſend for them, at a Printer's in Drury-lane. When I had collected my Com-

pany there, and the night fixed for opening, and bills printing, I ſent for the ſcenes to this perſon; he refuſed to give them to any one but myſelf, ſo I was obliged to take a journey for them. When I came to his houſe, I found he only had detained them, to ſhew me what care he had taken of them; (I muſt here, in ſtrict juſtice, and an invariable rule which is adopted in this hiſtory, ſay, that this gentleman was from Ireland; at the time I ſay this, I wiſh not to be underſtood to throw the ſmalleſt ſneer upon that nation, where I found as honeſt, hoſpitable, and well informed people, as in any other nation I have ever been in;) I deſired to ſee them, which he complied with, and in our way up ſtairs, he informed me, that having been, by neglect, put into a damp cellar, it had ſtained and injured the ſcenes, but that by the aſſiſtance of a charwoman he had employed for the purpoſe, (not that he would demand the half-crown he paid her) he was happy to inform me, that they were now, by

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dint of ſcouring, as clean and white as my ſhirt; petrified with aſtoniſhment, diſappointment, and afterwards convulſed with mirth, I beheld my ſcenes that I had to open my theatre with the next night, quite ſtripped of all traces of colour, except the canvas, which was rubbed almoſt white; however, there was no remedy, ſo taking leave of my well meaning friend, I returned to Great Marlow, where I had no other reſource than to inform the audience of every particular, which they excuſed with the greateſt good humour, and I opened to a crouded and well ſatisfied audience. As the Company were doing very well there, I went to London, and from thence to Jerſey, Guernſey, &c. on my own account, (whilſt my wife retired to Chelmsford, in Eſſex) where I carried on the *fair trade* for near three years. I had forgot to mention, I had ſent my only child, a boy of three years old, to Paris, to the military academy, for his education, where, at the age of five years, he was taken into the Emperor's ſervice, when at the age of

twelve, he carried a pair of colours in the ranks. I happened, at this time, to be at dinner with a large party at Bologne, in France, when juſt as the ſoup came in, I received a letter from Chelmsford, in Eſſex, ſtating the death of my wife there. I had ſcarcely reſigned myſelf to this affliction, when the Turkiſh mail having arrived, brought me a letter from thence, mentioning my ſon's being killed on the frontiers, by being jammed in between the boats. Having now no relation living, I returned to England, and led an inactive life in London for near three years, at the end of which period, at the Spaniſh armament, 1790, I received an acting commiſſion from Admiral Graves, Commander in Chief of all his Majeſty's ſhips and veſſels at Plymouth, for the Scout armed cutter, dated, 4th June, 1790. I was employed in conveying preſſed men from Ireland and Scotland, when on my return from Dublin with ninety-two men for the fleet, in company with the Hyæna frigate, juſt as we came near to a cluſter of rocks, called the

the Biſhop and his Clerks, by the ſailors, we met with a ſtrong eaſterly wind, and a lee tide, which ſuddenly drifted us amongſt the rocks; the Hyæna frigate ſeeing us drove to leeward, thought we were ſunk, and could not give us any aſſiſtance, for fear of ſtriking on the rocks; I ordered all hands on deck, and entirely reconciled to death, which then appeared certain, took the helm myſelf, and by the greateſt good fortune, ſteered her over the rocks, with the loſs of our ſtarboard quarter, and ran her into Milford-haven. Whilſt refitting there, I permitted all hands to go on ſhore; not one of the preſſed men ran from me. We then ſailed to Kingſroad, where the North Briton tender lay, to whom I delivered the ninety-two preſſed men. At the concluſion of the armament, the Scout was put out of commiſſion, and I went with her to Newnham, where I delivered her to the owners. I there met Captain Shaw, of the Lion privateer, then port-maſter of , who furniſhed me with recommendatory letters to the principal mer-

chants in Liverpool, in the coaſt trade for Guinea. I was immediately employed as Captain of a ſmall veſſel for the coaſt of Africa, by Meſſrs. Harpur and Braid, merchants. Being on board one day, and ſhewing ſome landſmen how to ſtow the ground tier of water, I diſlocated my hip, and was carried home to my lodgings. The lady of the houſe was particularly attentive and kind to me, and ſaid, ſhe thought it too late in the day for me to go on ſuch a voyage, and adviſed me to ſtay on ſhore; I had the ſame inclination for eaſe myſelf; ſo that coming to a right underſtanding, in a few months we were married. My wife carried on the liquor buſineſs very extenſively, and we were doing very well, when I found that I was not yet deſtined to enjoy the repoſe I deſired, for in the beginning of March, 1792, on my road to Mancheſter, I ſtopped at the houſe of Thomas Booth, the Three Crowns, Warrington, where I ſaw John Stevens, with his wife and ſix children, whoſe goods were detained for £. 2 : 18s. due to the landlord,

landlord. Theſe people had been at my houſe in Liverpool, but being unſucceſsful in buſineſs, had left me £. 2 : 18s. in debt. I told my friend Tom, I thought it would be of no uſe to detain their goods, for I imagined the whole would not fetch half the ſum due to us, when ſold. Theſe itinerants ſaid, they had ſeveral fairs to go to, where they would ſoon remit Booth's money, and mine. The landlord called me into an adjacent room, where, with his wife, we held a conſultation how to get the money; the landlord ſaid, he would threaten diſtreſs; you, addreſſing himſelf to me, muſt be the man of lenity, and ſay, you will be bound the people will pay; accordingly, I did, and the people were ſet adrift, on promiſing payment in a few weeks,

In the month of July, the landlord, Thomas Booth, came to my houſe very intoxicated, and ſaid, he looked on me for his money. I not thinking myſelf in any way reſponſible, from the mode of our agreement, took no notice of what

he ſaid. Sometime after, I went to Dublin, to ſettle with my agents for my powders by them diſpoſed of. October 24th, I had finiſhed my buſineſs, and received a draft upon Meſſrs. La Touche's and Co. from my agents, for £.75. The following day, being Saturday, I was going to Drumcondra to dine with a friend, intending to ſail for Liverpool next day, going through Caple-ſtreet, I was inſenſibly hemmed in with a multitude of people; when I enquired the reaſon of their ruſhing forward ſo rapidly, I was informed, there was a man going to execution for a ſtreet robbery. I endeavoured to get out of the crowd, but to no purpoſe; I was hurried along to the New Priſon, where I ſaw the unhappy culprit brought forwards on the new drop, which appeared to be about fourteen yards high. On a ſudden, he came down by the run, and fell upon the ſhoulders of a ſoldier who ſtood on an eminence about four yards from the ground, which broke the force of his fall. An alarm was given, that there would be a reſcue; the guards

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were ſent for, and the crowd were apprehenſive of being fired upon. It is impoſſible to deſcribe the confuſion; numbers were thrown down and trampled upon; and I, in the midſt of men, women, and children, thought it the beſt ſecurity to lay ſtill. I took care to ſecure my watch and my hat; the Barringtonians were buſily employed; they made ſeveral attempts to haul my boots off, but in vain, being ſo well faſtened by ſtraps; however, they found their way to my pocket-book, which contained all my riches, except three ſhillings and ſixpence in ſilver. Many had their pockets picked, their boots and ſhoes pulled off, and the women, their cloaks and aprons, &c.— I adverti ſed my pocket-book, but to no purpoſe. Captain Williams, of the Duke of Leinſter packet, very kindly lent me what money I wanted in Dublin, and credited me my paſſage until I got home.

Shortly after my return, I was viſited by an attorney from Warrington;—— he

he pretended to be very much my friend in the buſineſs between Mr. Booth and me, ſaying, it was a pity we ſhould go to law, and he would uſe every effort to put a ſtop to any further proceedings. In conſequence of this ſeemingly friendly and candid behaviour, I treated him like a gentleman, made him welcome to the beſt my houſe afforded, informed him of the misfortune I had met with in Dublin, and any proceſs of law, the plaintiff proceeding in the coſts, would inevitably fall upon himſelf, as I was fully determined never to pay any. Mr. Latitat ſeemed to ſympathize with me in my misfortune, but when he got to Warrington, eager for prey, and void of every degree of feeling, [I muſt obſerve, this man, before he attempted the law, was a ſhoe-maker by trade] he made the debt and coſts amount to £. 25. The ſixth day of February, I was viſited by Mr. J. Elliſon, who informed me, he had an execution againſt me, at the ſuit of Mr. Booth; I propoſed to put in bail, but he ſaid, being an execution, bail could not be taken,

taken, I muſt either pay all, or go to gaol. As I was previouſly determined never to pay a ſhilling of coſts, and it being King's Bench law, my dernier reſource was Lancaſter Caſtle. Thus ſituated, I prepared for the place, when I expected to be ſome time ſtationary, had my ſea-cheſt well ſtored with proviſions, and ſome grog. On the 8th day of February, I took my departure, without the aid of a pilot, as the Officer, Mr. Elliſon, ſaid he would truſt me alone. I left my wife and friends with great regret, yet I made myſelf cheerful on my paſſage, and when I arrived at the deſtined port, I delivered up my commiſſion to the officer of the watch, on receipt of which, he hove out the ſignal for mooring. With that imprudence, too much the characteriſtic of my former profeſſion, I opened my cheſt, and handed along a caſe bottle, ſaying, " ſhipmates, take a hearty ſwig," which they did moſt heartily. On going to ſtow away my grog again, " avaſt," ſaid the old codger, " I'll ſtow it away ;" I thanked him, but thought him

him too civil by half, and ſaid, to ſave him trouble, would take care of it myſelf; "nay," ſaith he, "ſuch liquors are prohibited, and muſt not enter theſe gates." This unexpected order ſlackened the ſtays of my comfort, and hove me all aback. After a ſmall lull of philoſophy, braced about, and filled again. I ſoon came to an anchor in a ſafe holding ground, moored with a cable each way, I found my grog was not thrown away, for bribery has it's influence in moſt places, in this as well as other ſituations; my grog introduced me to the beſt birth on board, called the Houſe of Lords. I was firſt introduced to the hoſt, or caterer for the meſs, who was an antient Briton, full of *congées*. My meſſmates were nine in number,——one a gentleman of eighty years of age, had been a priſoner in the rebellion of forty-five; another was a merchant from the Iſle of Man; I called him Freeport, from the character of the Engliſh merchant; another was a young Oxonian; extravagance never led him to this place, his avarice being ſuch, as

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ſeldom to allow himſelf a cheerful glaſs; he was the true emblem of a niggard; ——when his heart was open, he would drink to a ſtate of ſtupefaction: As a proof of his generoſity, I muſt obſerve, one of his fellow priſoners, a poor man, found his purſe, which contained ſeveral guineas and ſome ſilver, on it being returned to him, and finding it right, he very generouſly called for a pint of ale, drank half, and ſtill more generous, gave his poor, but honeſt brother debtor, the remainder; the next was a dealer in horſes, a quiet inoffenſive man; when ſober, he was prudent, but when he broke out, he was quite of a different turn to the Oxonian.

To him followed one from Clowbent, a place famous for making nails, to which buſineſs he was brought up, but marrying a woman with money, it affected his brain ſo much, he grew pedantic; his doggerly poetry, and half-ſtarved Latin, would ſometimes help to diſſipate the gloom which at times will overſhadow the mind

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of the moſt unthinking. When our hoſt had got a little too much grog, he was troubled with a Welch fever, and a quarrel was ſure to enſue between him and Clowbent; two brothers, builders from Mancheſter, and a native of Denmark, made up this eccentrical group. Hamlet, (for by that name I diſtinguiſhed the Dane) was as ſingular and remarkable a character as ever came under my, or perhaps, my reader's obſervation:——A ſettled melancholy ſeemed to have taken poſſeſſion of his ſoul, and when the mighty ſecret came out, it was love, that little invader of the eaſe and peace of man, had rivetted an arrow in his heart, and more troubleſome than even impriſonment itſelf. He ſeldom went out of the room; up to the knees in boots, he ſtuck cloſe to the fireſide, ſmoaking all weathers; he enjoyed a good ſtate of health, ate very hearty, but took no exerciſe.

I found my meſsmates ſmoaking their pipes, and drinking treacle hum, (this is a beverage made of water, ſweetened with treacle,

treacle, fermented with yeaſt, which with ginger and lemon peel, makes a pleaſant and very wholeſome drink, and is much in uſe in ſeveral parts of Lancaſhire) nothing more potent was to be had that night. Next day, I paid my garniſh in good ſtout ale; my meſſmates joined their quota, with which that day and evening paſſed merrily. I expected to live recluſe, but the next day, being the Sabbath, there appeared a number of viſitors from different quarters, and ſtrangers came frequently to ſee the caſtle. I began to vend my powders here, and appointed an agent in town. By them, and my nautical knowledge, I lived as comfortable as my ſituation in ſuch a place, could admit of. No doubt but it appears odd, that my naval abilities ſhould render me any ſervice in durance vile; I muſt explain,——I moddelled a frigate in miniature, which I diſpoſed of for two guineas and an half, and moddelled a ſecond, which mounted thirty-two metal guns on carriages, which could give a royal ſalute; ſhe was admired

mired by all who ſaw her, and ſhould have produced £. 20, but for the misfortune which befell her, as will hereafter appear. We had a frequent change in our meſs, occaſioned by ſome being diſcharged, and others coming in :——One gentleman from Mancheſter, partner in a capital houſe there, was arreſted for three thouſand pounds; he came in without one penny in his pocket; being met in the way by an old meſſmate, he recommended him to our room; he enquired for the hoſt, informed us, he was become an inmate, and ſhould be glad to become a boarder. This gentleman was quite the man of buſineſs, and in a few days, began to wiſh himſelf back at Mancheſter. We entertained ourſelves as well as we were able, and as there are artificial cares, why not artificial pleaſures; in conſequence of which, we indulged imagination in ten thouſand romantic ſchemes. Poverty and age were often loſt in thoſe pleaſing reveries, and, after all that grave philoſophers have ſaid and ſung, perhaps, there are ſome not quite ſo happy as your

your caſtle-builders. Invention was ever on the wing to baniſh reflection; this was the firſt object, and the next was to kill time. Sometimes we called in cards to our aid: the Mancheſter manufacturer could not be prevailed on to touch one, but he would look on whole evenings, and declared, that he had as much pleaſure as a ſpectator, as if he were actually engaged in play: his knowledge was entirely confined to his counting-houſe, yet he was ready to confeſs, that man ought to poſſeſs ſome accompliſhments beyond thoſe that merely related to the line of his buſineſs or profeſſion—and, in his opinion, pugiliſm was a ſcience every man ought to ſtudy in preference to any other; and, he lamented very much, that he had never ſeen Broughton in his life, whom he looked upon as the firſt man in the world. The Oxonian partly agreed with him, that every one ought to learn, at leaſt, to defend himſelf—but in his opinion, dancing was the firſt accompliſhment in the univerſe; it was practiſed by all nations, ancient and modern, civilized and barbarous; it contri-

buted to health; it put all the muſcles in their proper tone; and that a fine woman never appeared to ſo much advantage as in "Sailing through the mazes of har-"mony:"—What art, therefore, could equal dancing——

——— Mirabilis eſt ars,
Quæ fecit articulos, ora, ſilenti loqui.—

Our Mancheſter hero was at length ſo captivated with the repetition of this diſcourſe, that he offered to teach the Oxonian to beat any man in the kingdom, if, in return, he would teach him to beat *time*;—the bargain was immediately ſtruck—and hands and feet ſet immediately to work—ſo that our room was converted into an academy,—muſic, dancing, and ſparring, drew ſeveral viſitants, and amongſt the reſt a lady of a very religious turn of mind, who condemned the firſt as brutal, and the two laſt as quite heatheniſh;—ſhe inſiſted that all our time ſhould be ſpent in prayer; that the Rev. Mr. Weſley was the only true ſaint that ever appeared on earth; that the ſacred books, and his writings ought

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to be preſerved, and that all the reſt ſhould be committed to the flames. She had words at will, quoted methodiſtic diſcourſes on every occaſion—condemned all love as carnal—ſaid ſhe was no enemy to platonic paſſion, as it was formed on the moſt refined ſentiments—and that it was to be lamented that ſo fine a philoſopher ſhould be d—d. Since I have mentioned this veſtal, I had better ſay ſomething of her perſon, which was rather well formed, of the middle ſize, pale brown hair, about thirty years of age, with blue languiſhing eyes. I uſed to compliment her on her perſon, the neatneſs of her dreſs, and the tenacity of her memory.

I could eaſily obſerve that it did not diſpleaſe her. The Oxonian dare not approach ſo much ſanctity—he ſat at a diſtance, and ſeemed to liſten to her with rapture. Nature had done a great deal for his perſon, he was tall and athletic, well limbed, with an inſinuating addreſs, and genteel air. Though the lady viſited us frequently, the breath of ſuſpicion never attempted to ſully

her reputation;—but woman, thy name is frailty.—One evening we caught her in a ſituation with our ſtudent, which left no doubt that ſhe had entirely changed her mind with regard to platonic love, and that nature will have her way; the ſeal of ſilence was impreſſed on every lip—and her name and connexions ſhall remain a ſecret with me during life. Affectation, prudery, and coquetry ſhall ever think it my duty to hold up to public view, as often as opportunity preſents itſelf—not with any the leaſt intention of gratifying private pique or reſentment.

She uſed to viſit us often after, and appeared in her true character, which was full of gaiety and good ſenſe. She had read a good deal, and uſed to amuſe the love-ſick Dane with tender ſtories, which ſhe related in the moſt impaſſioned manner.

Our hoſt was a noiſy, ignorant fellow, and, as he had no ideas of his own, and ſeemed incapable of receiving any from others, his only conſolation was the bottle.

—When

—When in liquor, he was half mad—affronted every perſon—wanted to throw the houſe at one of the windows, or ſet it on fire. He gave us no little trouble,—and, when in the heat of his furor, it was neceſſary to pipe all hands on deck to tie him. Meſſrs. Brockman and Buſh, both Germans, late of Duke-ſtreet, Liverpool, were in priſon at the time, waiting to appear to a ſtatute of bankruptcy which had been iſſued againſt them;—the former was of a very ſerious turn, but the latter was a mere fribble: they were ſo terrified at the conduct of this unhappy man, that they threatened to complain to the goaler. As foreigners, I pitied their ſituation, and aſſured them they had nothing to apprehend, as they might ſafely place themſelves under the protection of the reſt of the priſoners; this did not abate their fears—they informed the goaler of the whole, but as rawhead and bloody-bones was one of the moſt inoffenſive beings when ſober, we commiſerated his ſituation, and told the keeper, that we ſhould take care that he ſhould do no injury. The goaler was about to

exerciſe his authority, when we thought it neceſſary to apprize him of a ſtanding rule, namely, that every member in a room muſt unite to vote another out of it.—The goaler read over the order, and was ſatisfied with it.

Having ſome leiſure on my hands, I wrote the following letter to my creditor:—

Friend Booth, (for ſo I ſhall ſtile you) what advantage do you expect to reap, by keeping me confined in the loathſome walls of a priſon? If your object is to reimburſe yourſelf, conſider a little, and you'll find that you have miſtaken the medium of it—I ſay, conſider with yourſelf again—do you imagine that I have diſcovered the philoſopher's ſtone, or that Midas like, every thing I touch turns into gold—I wiſh it were the caſe, on my own account and yours—In what manner am I to get money? I cannot think ſo badly of your heart as to ſuppoſe that it is to glut your revenge that you keep me here. When you faſtened your petty-fogging attorney on me, did I not tell you, with

with all the candour imaginable, of the loſs I had experienced in Dublin, and that it was totally out of my power to pay him the 2l. 18s. for which I paſſed my word, and that it was my fixed reſolution to drag out the laſt moment of my exiſtence in priſon rather than pay him the coſts, and that I was ready to leave the reſt to arbitration. At the ſame time, I aſſured him, that the expence of any proceſs of law that might be iſſued againſt me, would, moſt undoubtedly, fall on yourſelf. It is true, he ſaid, he would make me dance to any tune he pleaſed, but, remember the common ſaying, that you muſt pay the piper——If that villain permits you to eſcape, I am out in my reckoning.——

With ſincere ſorrow I ſympathize with you, but remember, Mr. Leatherhead led you into that error, with your eyes and your ears open. It is only waſte of ink and time to repeat misfortunes. I am ſafely moored, but I ſtill hope for a favouring gale. The ſighs of the unfortunate debtors of this kingdom, will, one day, reach the

Britiſh legiſlature, and then I ſhall regiſter my eſtate in the moon, for your benefit. I am content all is for the better, ſo ſays *Candide*, and I hope I ſhall find it ſo.

There is an old acquantance of mine, Colonel M————y, who, when a boy, was apprenticed to a butcher, at Pesford, in Northamptonſhire: His maſter died ſoon after he was bound; Mrs. Paunch, his miſtreſs, almoſt ſtarved him to death; being a lad of ſpirit, and of a wandering diſpoſition, he enliſted for an Eaſt India ſoldier, and, by intenſe application in the intervals of his duty, he learned to read and write. His good behaviour did not eſcape without notice; he was promoted to the rank of a corporal, and then a ſerjeant, then to an enſignſy; no man's promotion ever gave ſincerer pleaſure to his brother officers—he was eſteemed by all.—As Mars had ſo far done his duty, Venus was reſolved to ſerve him likewiſe—he married a lady of large fortune in Bengal; on her death, he returned to his native country, purchaſed a fine eſtate, in the very pariſh in which

which he had been apprenticed. His amiable manners were not to be changed by fortune; he ſummoned his old friends to a dinner, nay, even his former miſtreſs mingled with the circle; it may be ſuppoſed, that the ſight of her would kindle his indignation; it had juſt the contrary effect; ſhe was quite reduced in her circumſtances; he made her a handſome preſent, adding, with a ſmile, that if ſhe had behaved as ſhe ought to have done, he might, by that time, have arrived to the length of a drunken, illiterate journeyman butcher.—Thus fortune likes to ſhift the ſcene—and, who knows, but I may yet feel myſelf under a ſimilar obligation to your *honeſt* attorney. I wiſh, however, for the ſake of your wife and family, that you may not yet repent your connexion with him—you are now in his power, and, if he lets you eſcape without a gentle ſqueeze, I have no judgment in harpies of his kind.

I am your's, &c.

M. M.

P. S, I

P. S. I paid the inſide coach-hire down; I left nothing for you to pay at the lock-up houſe; I diſcharged all expences on the road, and, as a farther ſaving to you, I came without an officer; and, on the *recommendation* of the ſheriff, was matriculated a member of this univerſity, in which there are more arts that the ſeven taught, and, after a proper ſtanding, I hope to go out grand *compounder*. If you don't underſtand this, carry it to your attorney, and, perhaps, by the help of his ſpelling dictionary, which he conſtantly carries in his pocket, you may be enabled, between you, to ſpell ſome of the words.

Lancaſter Caſtle, Feb. 20, 1793.

Our hoſt uſed to make it a rule to collect the money for our board; he was accuſtomed to borrow money from me in the middle of the week, but I found that he did not carry it to my account;—this was certainly a remiſſneſs on my part, for I ſhould have ſeen it entered in the book, eſpecially as I was not burthened with caſh. This furniſhed him with an opportunity of telling my meſſmates in my abſence, that I was

was indebted to him :—the moment I heard it, I could not refrain from knocking him down ; a few friends got about, and appeaſed me—and the ungrateful fellow was ſo conſcious of the infamy of his conduct, that he would not venture to appear in my preſence. I ſnatched up the pen, and wrote him the following letter :——

Baſe wretch, when I reflect on your ingratitude, and the ſtab that you endeavoured to give my character in the dark, I can ſcarce hold the pen ; have I not frequently apologized for the irregularity of your conduct? becauſe I thought it proceeded from a diſtempered brain, but, I now find that your heart is worſe than your head ; recollect that you have to deal with a man, who will not be impoſed on—recollect the money that I lent you at different times—and think not of delaying a ſingle moment to do juſtice to my character :—have I not contributed to the maintenance of your family for ſome time paſt? Think, if you were ſet a drift to the world, where you would get a morſel of bread : you pretend

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to be a cook, and could not furniſh out a ſingle diſh for a Hottentot;—there the old proverb is verified in you, God ſends us meat, but the d---l ſends us cooks—and, indeed, from your conduct, I believe the old gentleman in black muſt have been the firſt perſon that recommended you to this place, for you have kept us in continual torment ever ſince your arrival.—I do not appeal to your conſcience, for I cannot ſuppoſe you have any—but I appeal to your memory—and a knaviſh one it ſeems to be—make your appearance in the preſence of my meſſ-mates—let me croſs-examine—look ſtraight in my face—and anſwer ſuch queſtions as I ſhall put to you; never mind talking of oaths—I ſhall take your word as ſoon as your oath—as I begin to ſuſpect you are an old knight of the poſt.—I once took you to be an honeſt man; I now entertain a contrary opinion of you: convince me that I am wrong, and I ſhall be happy to find myſelf miſtaken."

M. M.

Shire-Hall,
6th May, 1793.

On

On receipt of this letter, he came to the Shire-hall, with a countenance as compoſed as imaginable: he begged of me not to be angry with him, that he was ſenſible he was under many obligations to me, and begged that I would forget all that was paſt, and the accounts ſhould be amicably ſettled. I began to upbraid him with ingratitude: he only bowed, or ſaid a few words—a ſoft anſwer turneth away wrath, my paſſion immediately ſubſided, and I begged that he would loſe no time in ſettling the accounts, that my character might appear to my chums in that point of view in which their indulgence placed it.

Amongſt other rules and regulations eſtabliſhed in this priſon, is the following, viz. that a court ſhall be held on the firſt Thurſday in every month, to hear and determine any diſputes that may ariſe in the interval, and to enforce the payment of debts that may have been contracted amongſt the debtors in the ſaid Shire-hall. The judge and counſel are elected from amongſt the priſoners themſelves, and the choice

choice in general is well directed, and equity is rather attended to than law. All metaphyſical diſcuſſions are proſcribed; the ſole object is to eſtabliſh the fact: precedent is of no avail, unleſs it is founded on good ſenſe, and the ſimple rule of right and wrong, *meum* and *tuum*, two words that have kept John Doe and Richard Roe in law for many years.

Twelve days after this interview, as I ſat by the fire-ſide, our hoſt entered, and, without the ſmalleſt provocation on my part, ſtruck me a violent blow in the eye, which entirely cloſed it; I was ſo ſtunned, that I cannot anſwer for what I ſaid or did, and the cowardly fellow ran off the moment he ſtruck me. The doctor viſited me the next morning, and having examined the wound, declared, that he was doubtful of the recovery of my ſight. By attention, however, to his preſcriptions, I got the better of it, but very ſlowly.

The next court day, I brought an action againſt the villain for the aſſault, and the money

money which he owed me, and was confident that I ſhould recover large damages, but in this I was miſtaken. Notwithſtanding I had behaved in ſuch a manner as to flatter myſelf, that, in point of character, I ſtood very fair with my fellow priſoners, the villain, (for I can call him by no other name) played off his cunningneſs againſt my candour, and availed himſelf of every opportunity to impreſs my jurors with a deep idea of his honeſty, ſimplicity, &c. the reſult of which, was, that when the ſuit came to be argued, he produced an account againſt me, every item of which he offered to confirm by oath. The Judge ſummed up, and left the conſideration of the whole to the Jury, who, to my great ſurprize, brought me indebted to him in the ſum of five ſhillings. Trifling as this ſum was, I cannot help ſaying the deciſion gave me ſo much uneaſineſs, that I could ſcarce enjoy a moment's repoſe that night, and the fellow was reſolved that I ſhould enjoy as little the next, for, the morning following, execution was iſſued, by virtue of which, he ſeized my cot, bedding, cloaths, &c.

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and dragged them down ſtairs, contrary to the rules of the court, and, ſuch was the haſte in which he did this buſineſs, that he tore ſeveral of my papers, and broke a number of phials, which contained ſome rectified ſpirits of wine; his triumph was not yet complete; he ſold my cloaths and bedding almoſt the inſtant he got them into his poſſeſſion. I began, it is true, to meditate revenge, but was determined to act conſiſtent with myſelf, and to convince my chums that I was not to be actuated by malice. The next court day, I ſued him for damages, as he had acted contrary to the ſtanding rules of the priſon. I felt myſelf too much agitated to ſpeak for myſelf; I committed my caſe to a perſon, with whoſe character I was little acquainted, and who, in plain Engliſh, betrayed me, in conſequence of a bribe, which I afterwards found he had taken. The Jury, however, brought in a verdict in my favour. The damages, it is true, were ſmall, and I was ſatisfied.

The

The agreeable news, at length, reached us, that the Earl of Moira had given notice, that he intended to bring in a bill for the relief of unfortunate debtors. The joyful tidings made every eye ſparkle with pleaſure. From his Lordſhip's known humanity, his rank as a ſtateſman, and his abilities as a legiſlator, ſtrongly ſeconded our hopes; the humane and juſt principles on which it was grounded, and the aſſent of the judges to the introduction of it, left little doubt of its ſucceſs.

It is ſcarce poſſible to deſcribe the agitation of our minds during the period that the Houſe entertained this bill; nay, to ſuch a height was our expectation wound, that, in imagination, we paſſed it in the upper Houſe, hurried it through all the ſtages of the Commons Houſe, and were juſt giving it the Royal Aſſent, when the melancholy news arrived, that the bill had been thrown out. It is eaſier to feel than paint the effect this unexpected ſtroke had on our ſpirits—perpetual impriſonment, with all its dire concomitants—cold, hun-

ger, and thirſt appeared on every countenance; one flew to the bottle, a ſecond to bed, a third ſought the darkeſt corner of the priſon, and a fourth endeavoured to laugh, but the grin was truly ſardonic; as for myſelf, I ſcarce recollect what I did for two days, at leaſt, at the end of which, I began, like Hudibras, to comfort myſelf——

——With ends of verſe,
And ſayings of philoſophers.

Several of the firſt pens have been laudably employed in deprecating the impolicy of impriſonment for debt, and, it is extraordinary, that notwithſtanding this impolicy has been demonſtrated, that it ſhould be continued in a country that calculates the perſonal liberty of the ſubject at a very high price indeed, but not too high. In Ruſſia, Portugal, &c. and the moſt deſpotic governments, impriſonment for debt is wholly unknown; will not ſome Britiſh ſenator then ariſe, and call upon his compatriots to aſſiſt him in the humane

mane and generous plan of drawing a line betwixt the unfortunate and criminal debtor, the well-intentioned man, and the ſwindler; Let not the two claſſes be confounded. Mr. Burke has juſtly obſerved, that the facility of credit in this country, gives the creditor, in the firſt inſtance, a raſh reſort to the perſon of the debtor. It is in vain, that the latter entreats the former, with trembling accents, in the language of the ſcriptures, " Have patience, and I will pay you all." I ſay, it is in vain, for however mercifully diſpoſed the creditor may be, the petty-fogging attorney interpoſes in his vocabulary *humanity*, and *weakneſs* are ſynonymous terms;—the defendant cannot pay, he muſt be ſent to gaol, and Mr. Split-cauſe has nothing more to do than to torture his invention to ſend the plaintiff after him as faſt as he can, that they may conſole each other. Good heaven! that ſuch a nefarious gang ſhould be permitted to prey on ſociety. At the ſame time that I ſay this, I am confident, and can ſpeak from experience, that there are many worthy characters

even in the inferior profeſſion of the law. It is ſaid, that an honeſt man is one of the firſt ornaments of ſociety, but that an honeſt attorney is ſtill more; call this hyperbole, or what you pleaſe, it muſt be confeſſed there is more in it than meets the ear.

In addition to my own caſe, I ſhall take the liberty of adding that of another fellow priſoner, in order to exhibit the conduct of another petty-fogging limb of the law, and, I truſt, one day to ſee him exhibited in another manner.

Mr. G——n, in the year 1789, having an additional ſtock of proviſion on his hands, employed a friend as an agent to diſpoſe of a quantity of it, in the neighbourhood of Halifax, who, accordingly, took orders from ſeveral perſons, eſpecially Mr. C——, to the amount of ten pounds and upwards. Reiterated applications were made for the payment of this ſum, without any effect. About fifteen months had elapſed, his agent ſent a bill, purporting

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to be the draft of one Aaron S——, a Jew, in favour of Mr. G——n, for ten pounds. The perſon to whom it was entruſted, took the trouble of ſending it up to London for acceptance, and received it again unaccepted, on which he related the circumſtance to Mr. G——n, who deſired him to offer the bill in payment. The reply was, that proviſion was made, and when due, would certainly be paid. The bill was negociated, and found its way back with anſwer, *No effect*, though it was neither noted or proteſted, in ſhort, Mr. G——n was arreſted. An attorney ſoon offered his friendly advice; iſſue was joined, and the trial came on to be heard at Lancaſter aſſizes, in 1792. His attorney did not find it convenient to attend. In this ſituation, wholly unacquainted with all the *routine* of law, convinced of the ſtrength of his caſe, he attended himſelf, and employed another attorney, in order to have the cauſe entered in time. This hopeful ſon of litigation aſſured him, that he was time enough; that there were but few geeſe to pluck, and that every

thing was right; that he might depend on him; his hands were clean; he abominated dirty work; left all that to thoſe petty-fogging raſcals who prowled for prey; and that he was proud to ſay, he had the ear of the court, and that the *conſiſtency* of his profeſſional character was well known. Our poor client was quite happy, thanked his ſtars that he had met with ſo worthy a man, and that he was rejoiced to find, that honeſt men ſtill exiſted in the world. In the courſe of a few hours, however, Mr. Spin-cauſe returned with a very long face, was quite unhappy to tell his client, that it was too late to enter the cauſe, that the only conſolation he felt was, that the fault did not lie at his door; that a great deal could be done with a little money; that it was the beſt ingredient in the univerſe to oil the wheel of buſineſs. The client, Mr. G——n, gave him three guineas, and aſſured him, that he placed the utmoſt confidence in his integrity. Away he flew. Mr. G—-n waited with the utmoſt anxiety for his return, At length, he came, aſſured Mr.

G——n,

G——n, he had diſpoſed of his three guineas to the beſt advantage; that it was certainly too late to enter the cauſe; that it was abſolutely neceſſary for the pure diſpenſation of juſtice between man and man, that the forms of proceedings in law ſhould be preſerved inviolate, but, that he might return to his family, and reſt aſſured, that the buſineſs had been put in a proper train; and that nothing more would come of it till the next aſſizes. In leſs than three months he was taken in execution for double the ſum, which he endeavoured to pay. In three months after, he was taken in execution again, for twenty-one pounds and upwards; pay or priſon were the words, and as he could not do the former, the latter was his fate.

Thus, in an inſtant, was this honeſt, induſtrious man torn from his wife and family, and from his homely board, to feed on the vapours of a gaol. It is a common proverb, ſet a thief to catch a thief, but if you ſet one raſcally attorney

againſt another, they are ſure to unite, and if they can gain the weather-gage of the law, in an inſtant, you are ſent to the bottom; it is in vain to think of the long boat.

I had like to have paſſed over a curious character, and I hope, for the honour of humanity, it was ſingular.——A greater villain never exiſted, and, the only virtue he had, if it can be called a virtue, was, that he never denied it; if you called him an honeſt man, he would bring an action againſt you for ſcandal. His countenance was the index of his mind. Lavater would have told you what he was, on the firſt view of it—*Nulla fronti fides*—but, in this inſtance, you might have truſted to every line of it—no client in that reſpect—he was what is called in London an Old Bailey ſolicitor. He held out hope to every priſoner, however deſperate the caſe. A poor ſheep thief was condemned to death; the Judge, (as he was an old offender) left him for execution. Our ſolicitor waited on the trembling con-

vict

vict in his cell, and aſſured him, on his honour, that if he could give him two guineas, he would procure his pardon—Life is ſweet—and the ſum was raiſed by his fellow priſoners. The day of execution approached—nothing done—and the very evening before, the unfeeling harpy condeſcended to wait on him.

The dialogue, perhaps, may be worth reading.——

Priſoner.—The ſight of you revives my ſinking ſpirits. Why did you not come ſooner to viſit me?

Solicitor.—I was ſo much engaged in your buſineſs, that I could not attend.

Priſoner.—I need not tell you the time approaches; I am ordered for execution to-morrow; what's to be done? Any hopes of a reprieve?

Solicitor.—Every thing is as it ought to be.

Priſoner.

Priſoner.—I ſhall be hung.

Solicitor.—That's all I want. If they hang you, remember, I'll make them pay for it.

The poor man was accordingly executed.

The Dane could ſpeak pretty good Engliſh; he was always very attentive to me, and, as I found him a very honeſt fellow, I was anxious, on my part, to render him every ſervice in my power; I lent him Tom Jones; he had read it in his own language, and was ſo enamoured with the character of Sophia, that he ſaid, he really believed, if the inimitable Fielding had lived in his days, that he had taken the portrait from his miſtreſs. He was anxious to know the hiſtory of Fielding; I gave him the outline of it, told him that I had viſited his grave in Liſbon, which was only diſtinguiſhed by a cypreſs, and that his ungrateful countrymen had not raiſed a monument to his memory. I told him, that he had only

only one ſon, a barriſter, who, in every ſituation of his profeſſion, maintained the character of the gentleman and the ſcholar, of which I was happy to furniſh him with ſeveral inſtances, which pleaſed him exceedingly. He had received an excellent education himſelf; travelled a great deal, and was no ſtranger to ſome of the firſt characters in Europe. He was, as I have already obſerved, of a melancholy turn, not the clotted melancholy of a hypochondriac, but that kind of penſive diſpoſition, which Milton has happily deſcribed in that inimitable poem, under the title of *Il Penſeroſo*. He was fond of poetry, and, ſometimes, amuſed himſelf with verſifying, as he called it, in his native language. I have ſome pieces of his compoſition, in verſe, which he endeavoured to tranſlate for me into Engliſh proſe, one or two of which I attempted to turn into rhime, and, miſerable rhime indeed, and, as a proof of it, I ſhall preſent the reader with the following:——

SONG.

SONG.

Erſt fortune ſmil'd upon my youth,
With Roth,* I ſought the paths of truth;
Bright viſions roſe at every view,
In every pleaſing form and hue.

For me, gay Fancy trim'd her bowers,
For me, ſhe culled her new-born flowers,
For me, the linnet pour'd her note,
For me, the blackbird ſwelled her throat.

But fortune frown'd, and viſions fair,
Soon melted into emply air,
Each flowret droop'd that whilom charm'd,
If friends approach'd, they look'd alarm'd.

Thus loſt to every joy at home,
Condemn'd thro' foreign climes to roam,
What was my crime ye grave reprove,
My crime and only crime was LOVE.

* His ſchoolmaſter.

Amidſt the many anecdotes which he told me, I recollect the following.

OSAKOI,

OSAKOI,

A Ruſſian Anecdote in the reign of Peter the Great.

During the troubles occaſioned by the reſtleſs ambition of the princeſs Sophia,* it is a well known fact, that the revolt of Strelitz† had nearly involved the empire in ruin.

A brother of the famous Tottelawitau, a colonel in that corps, loſt his life on the ſcaffold. His brother, named Oſakoi, whoſe eſtates were confiſcated, left a ſon in the moſt deplorable ſituation. This unfortunate youth, almoſt by a miracle,

* She was the eldeſt ſiſter of the Czar Peter, and having herſelf an eye upon the throne, frequently attemped the death of her brother.

† This military force may, in many reſpects, be compared to the Pretorian bands of the Romans, or the janiſſaries among the Turks, but infinitely more barbarous.

eſcaped

eſcaped the emiſſaries of the Emperor, and was concealed in a village by a ſlave of his father, having attained to a ſtate of conſequence, this ſervant led him into the ſecret of his birth, and propoſed to him a means of revenging his family, by the aſſaſſination of the Czar; a propoſition which rouſed the youth, and which, notwithſtanding, he diſſembled. Upon which the ſlave, who believed that he had ſucceeded, perſuaded him to ſet out for Moſcow, where (he informed him) he would find conſpirators to ſecond his deſign. Whether through weakneſs, or whether through the hopes of revenge, Oſakoi followed the directions of his guide. Having arrived by night, he ſtopped at an obſcure inn near Kremlin, which was the reſidence of the Emperor.

The ſlave having found his friends, it was agreed on, that very night, they ſhould hold a council in the retired part of a houſe, at a little diſtance from the imperial palace.

Oſakoi,

Oſakoi, who, till that very period, was unable to obtain of his companion any intelligence concerning the conſpirators, with reſpect to who they were, urged him anew, but in vain, to ſatisfy his curioſity.

The hour of meeting arrives, the ſlave ſays to him in private, you are now about to meet with men inflamed with the deſire of revenge, and who, in oppoſition to your youth, and want of experience, are reſolved on appointing you their leader. The humble ſtate into which you are dejected, the blood of your father, which as yet is ſmoaking, in ſhort, all theſe circumſtances ought to kindle your courage, and make you brave the dangers of that revenge which you are going to obtain.

Theſe words made the young Oſakoi tremble, and with ſo much the more reaſon as the inn was crouded with Ruſſians of all deſcriptions, who, after the cuſtom of the country, were intoxicating themſelves in the beſt manner every one could.

It is true, that the ſlave ſpoke ſufficiently low, and in a dialect unknown to the Ruſſians of Moſcow. But was it not poſſible that ſome one might overhear their diſcourſe? A crime is always blind, and almoſt invariably betrays itſelf.

The ſlave and Oſakoi repaired to the rendezvous where this fatal aſſembly was to be held; the conſpirators were already arrived.

" You ſee (ſays the moſt remarkable " among them, to our youth) ſome unfortunate men who have eſcaped the " tyranny of the Czar. This barbarian, " in cauſing to periſh by the hand of " the executioner, and even by his own, " the majority of our brothers Strelitz, was unable to extend his fury to " us. Heaven has been pleaſed to preſerve us, as the inſtrument of its vengeance, and that period is now arrived. " Be filled with rage, young Oſakoi! I " have ſeen the blood of your unfortunate " father ſpilled; Oh! how I followed him

" to

" to the ſcaffold! and was unable to ſave
" him! wandering theſe ten years through
" the moſt frightful deſerts; the horror
" of our ſituation obliged us to take
" fraudulently a ſubſiſtance, which, as
" ſoldiers and citizens, we were intitled
" to do! but to-morrow, this cruel ty-
" rant, and his chief courtiers, ſhall fall
" under our blows. Young man! we
" loved your father; he was our chief,
" now be you ſo in your turn, and may
" your courage render you worthy of
" our choice. When a ſovereign has
" broke through the lawful bounds of
" power; when miſery oppreſſes his ſub-
" jects, the courage of freeing them-
" ſelves from this, ought equally to break
" down the bounds of duty and huma-
" nity."

Oſakoi perceived, that under theſe circumſtances there was no alternative; and that even the leaſt ſhadow of weakneſs would be the ſignal for his death; he, in appearance, exhibited courage, which, in reality, he was not poſſeſſed of.

It was agreed on among the conſpirators, at their breaking up, that the next day they ſhould aſſemble again at the ſame hour; and, for the greater ſecurity, Oſakoi and the ſlave were to return to the inn by a different route.

Oſakoi had ſcarcely gone thirty ſteps, when he found himſelf accompanied by a Ruſſian, who begged leave to follow him, and believing him to be one of the conſpirators, he permitted him to go along with them. Having arrived at a little ſtair-caſe, which they paſſed with much difficulty, they ſtopped in a ſmall chamber, the door of which the Ruſſian inſtantly ſhut.

" Be not ſurprized (ſays the Ruſſian " to him) at my acting in this manner " with you, as what I have to ſay to " you, requires the greateſt ſecrecy. I, " as well as you, have come out of that " aſſembly, where the death of the Czar " has been conſpired. As well as your- " ſelf, this is the firſt night that I could

" procure

" procure admittance among them, and a
" deſire of vengeance excites me to be-
" come the irreconcileable enemy of my
" ſovereign. If his blood is due to
" thoſe cruelties with which they re-
" proach him. For, in ſhort, what are
" thoſe conſpirators? Guilty ſubjects, co-
" vered with crimes, and who have con-
" cealed themſelves from the rigour of
" the law; robbers who breathe nothing
" but murder, plunder, and pillage; and
" who are their accomplices? The firſt
" men in the ſtate, they ſay, and they
" have not ventured to mention one of
" them! Then, could they even accom-
" pliſh their deſign, what man would
" debaſe himſelf by aſſociating with ſuch
" a banditti? and what means have they
" diſcloſed to us of being able to accom-
" pliſh it? For whom do we labour?
" For whom do we riſque our lives?
" The project, the means, the reſources,
" nothing of theſe is known to us; and
" ſtill they wiſh us to become the blind
" inſtruments of ſuch an enterpriſe! Theſe,
" young Oſakoi, are my doubts and my

" fears reſpecting that aſſembly. The
" conſpirators have named you their chief;
" I ſubſcribe to their choice; but, lead
" me clearly into this myſtery, and I aſ-
" ſure you of my aſſiſtance."

A heart which nature alone had formed, which chance had removed from the intrigues of the city, and poiſon of courts, of conſequence, incapable of treaſon, could not poſſibly ſuppoſe that he wiſhed to impoſe on him. Oſakoi was ſtruck with tde confidence which the Ruſſian repoſed in him, and this confidence emboldened him to diſcloſe his whole ſentiments to him. " You might have remarked my
" ſurprize (ſays he to him) in ſeeing me
" in the midſt of ſuch an aſſembly. Con-
" tent with my condition, knowing no-
" thing beyond my village, troubled with
" no ambition, I enjoyed a tranquillity
" which nothing, until that period, had
" ever diſturbed. They have watched my
" eyes; they have told me, that I have
" a father to avenge, and, in order to
" avenge him, I muſt aſſaſſinate the Em-
" peror.

" peror. But have I known this father?
" Do I know whether he was innocent
" or guilty? and, in this doubt, they
" wiſh me to murder my maſter! Theſe
" maxims, I declare, are repugnant to
" my natural diſpoſition. For, who am
" I that I ſhould take upon me to judge
" my Emperor? What right, what au-
" thority has Heaven given me to pu-
" niſh him? That propoſition puts me
" diſtracted! but the fear of death de-
" ſtroyed my anſwer on my lips. Since
" now you have opened to me your heart,
" read that which paſſes in mine. I
" deteſt a crime, and particularly one of
" that nature! A voice within me cries,
" *Love and reſpect your ſovereign!* Have
" pity then on my youth; I give my-
" ſelf up to your council; preſerve me
" from the fury of theſe barbarians, who
" have choſen me for the executioner of
" their maſter and mine. For if I
muſt either periſh, or attempt the life of
the Czar, I prefer dying innocent.

You ſhall not die, my child, (replied the Ruſſian) it is the Czar himſelf that addreſſes you, and who will certainly recompenſe the noble candour of your ſentiments.

It was in fact the monarch himſelf, who, under the diſguiſe of a ſlave, had liſtened to a part of the conſpiracy in the inn. That diſcovery had ſuggeſted to him the idea of viſiting the aſſembly, where they were to have conſpired his deſtruction. He had the boldneſs of going there, and mixing with the guilty. He had obſervde Oſakoi confuſed in theſe anſwers, and had reſolved to ſave him, provided he was not abſolutely culpable.

Thoſe who look on this relation as a romance, are little acquainted with the life of *Peter the Great*, which was full of incidents of this nature.

This prince, born to be the modeller of his country, and who wiſhed to ſee every thing himſelf, frequently diſguiſed himſelf, and found means of introducing him-

himſelf into theſe private aſſemblies, where the moſt ſhamful intemperance renders the tongue incapable of keeping a ſecret; and to that activity alone, notwithſtanding its danger, was he indebted for the diſcovery of twenty plots formed againſt his life. The people alſo, who both feared and reſpected him, often ſaid, *The Emperor liſtens to us, let us conduct ourſelves like honeſt men.*

In the Auguſt aſſizes, having paſſed through all the forms preſcribed by the Lord's act, I was diſcharged in court. I was told, that a number of Liverpool gentlemen intended to ſpend the evening at the King's Arms, whom I was deſirous of ſeeing, previous to their going home, in order that I might once more enjoy thoſe pleaſures that await on freedom, and the circulation of the convivial glaſs, but when I was about to go, as I thought every thing ſettled, the gaoler informed me, that he could not permit me to go out, as the attorney

had not been ſerved with a copy of my diſcharge. The very word *attorney* kindled every ſpark of indignation within me, and if one of the nefarious tribe had been preſent, I would have wreaked my vengeance on him. When the little reaſon I had left, reſumed its influence, I began to conſult with the turnkey, and told him, I thought it would be beſt to preſent a petition to the Judge, that his lordſhip would be pleaſed to order the attorney's coſts to be diſmiſſed, which amounted to 2l : 12s : 6d. He aſſured me, that it would have no effect; I was reſolved, however, to try it, and without more ado, I preſented his lordſhip with the following paper:——

To Sir Alexander Thompſon, Knt. one of the Barons of his Majeſty's Court of Exchequer.

The humble petition of M. Moore,

Moſt reſpectfully ſheweth,

That your petitioner has ſpent the prime of his life in the navy, where having weathered

weathered many a hard gale up to, and through that of an acting lieutenant, but not being confirmed, he is not on half pay. He has been confined for a debt he never contracted, theſe ſeven months, in Lancaſter Caſtle priſon, and all through the villainy of a land ſhark, commonly called a petty-fogging attorney. He has kept a long look out for your lordſhip's arrival in this port, and hopes that your lordſhip will take his caſe into conſideration, and order him to get under weigh as faſt as poſſible, as he would much rather fall into the hands of an Algerine pirate, than into that of a wooden limb of the law.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray*.

M. M.

* It is worthy of remark, that the debtors in Lancaſter Caſtle have the privilege of ſitting in court by the judge during the aſſizes.

The moment I wrote this, I ſhewed it to the keeper, but, he ſaid, he did not like what I ſaid of the Attorney, for one good reaſon, if it was not for thoſe *gemmen*, he ſhould not have a debtor once in ſeven years. I preſented it to his lordſhip, who read it over and ſmiled. This I hailed as a happy omen. His lordſhip handed it to Mr. Croſs, the clerk of the court. I heard nothing more about it that day. The next morning, I aſked Mr. Croſs, if his lordſhip had been ſo good as to order my diſcharge; diſcharge! ſaid he, with a look of ſurpriſe that alarmed me, why the keeper has it in his pocket. Scarce did I wait for the laſt word; I ran out in purſuit of the gaoler; he was in court all the time; I found him at laſt, and demanded my diſcharge in a peremptory tone, telling him, at the ſame time, I wondered how he dared to keep it; but my words had very little effect on him, he pulled it ſlowly out of his pocket, and gave it to me, in the preſence of T. B. Bailey, Eſq; who enquired of him who I was, and what had

thrown

thrown me into ſuch a rage; to which he anſwered, " he is one of the moſt " troubleſome little fellows that ever came " within theſe gates, and I am very glad " to get rid of him;" and, I dare ſay, quoth Mr. Bailey, he is as happy, on the other hand, to get rid of you.

As ſoon as I could perſuade myſelf that I was free, I went to a public houſe, and ſpent the evening with a friend. I did not forget to drink the worthy Judge's health that had liberated me. In the courſe of the next day, I ſet out in the ſtage coach for Liverpool. When I got within ſight of the town, my heart rebounded with joy, and for a moment I forgot all my misfortunes. Liverpool is very well ſituated for trade, but is much indebted for its commercial opulence, to the artificial docks which are cut out of the ſolid rock. Overton hill, to the North Eaſt of the town, is a delightful ſituation; ſeveral merchants reſide in it; the proſpect is pleaſing, and the air ſalubrious. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Liverpool could

only boaſt of five fiſhing ſmacks, and it appears to have been a place of ſuch little conſideration, that it is ſcarce noticed till of late, by any Britiſh topographer; it is not even mentioned in Domeſday book; but avaſt heaving, I am no antiquary. Very few foreigners who viſit this kingdom, think they have completed their tour, till they have ſeen Liverpool, which contains ſome very good inns. Mr. Dale has lately built a new coffee-houſe adjoining the Exchange, which is conſtantly ſupplyed with the London newſpapers. Several of the ſtreets, it muſt be confeſſed, are dirty and narrow, but they are tolerably well lighted. The New Priſon is built on the late Mr. Howard's plan. The ſituation is well choſen, to the South Weſt of the town. It is certainly a beautiful ſtructure, but fine as it is, I pray heaven that it may always be found uninhabited.

The tobacco warehouſe is univerſally admired—convenience and ſimplicity of ſtile ſeem to have been entirely conſulted by the architect. An extenſive porter brewery has been

been lately ſet on foot in this town; and the theatre, in the ſummer ſeaſon, is very much frequented, and I know not of a more indulgent, and, at the ſame time, a more judicious audience. The diſpenſary is, perhaps, the fineſt in Europe. The front is ornamented with a figure of the good Samaritan, in the very act of relieving the poor Jew. The figure does great credit to the chiſſel. This town has produced ſome literary men;—The Reverend Doctor Gregory, author of the Eccleſiaſtical Hiſtory, and the juſtly admired tranſlation of Doctor Lowth's prelections. The Reverend Mr. Bromley, who has lately written a hiſtory of the fine arts, were born in it. Mr. Holt is at preſent engaged in writing a hiſtory of Liverpool, and from the reſearch, aſſiduity, and abilities of this gentleman, I have not the leaſt doubt but it will be well executed.

As ſoon as I arrived in town, I went to the tavern, where I ſpent the night very agreeably, with a number of my friends.

The electors of Liverpool have done themſelves great credit in electing General Tarleton to repreſent them in the Senate. His gallant conduct in America, undoubtedly, entitled him to that mark of diſtinction, and his parliamentary conduct is a proof that they made a proper choice.

About this time, I received the following letter from an Iriſh gentleman with whom I had formed an acquaintance in Dublin:——

My dear Sir,

By the date of your letter, I ſee that it has been very long on the way; I am glad, however, that it reached me at laſt. It is now ſome time ſince I left the city, nor do I think that I ſhall ever viſit it again; and I know it will ſurprize you when I aſſure you, that I am grown ſo fond of a country life, that I pity every man that is obliged to lead a city one. I reſide, at preſent, on my own farm, which I cultivate with

my

my own hands. My fortune, you know, is ſlender, but I live within the bounds of it, and I wiſh that my neighbours would do the ſame. I have but a ſmall cottage, on which, no doubt, you, that lately reſided in a caſtle, will look down with contempt; I have ſtill, however, a glaſs of wine, and a bed for a friend. I live in a remote corner of the kingdom; the country around me is in a ſtate of nature—ſcarce a trace of cultivation. I have one conſolation—that an attorney does not live within twenty miles of me. The ſchoolmaſter of the pariſh is my only companion, and if you wiſh to know his character, you'll find it in Doctor Goldſmith's Deſerted Village; I don't know that he can guage, and that's all that is wanting. I ſhould be very happy to ſee you ſeated in my chimney corner, that we might amuſe each other with our adventures. If you are ſick of the world, come to me, and I ſhall endeavour to relieve you. I have a few books filled with wiſe laws and good remarks; Shakeſpeare is my favourite, but I have

turned all his commentators out of doors. I think you know enough of me to reſt aſſured that I ſhall be glad to hear from you, and ſtill more ſo to ſee you. If you come on horſeback, ſo much the better, if you come on foot, I ſhall take care of your walking ſtaff, but if you come with money in your purſe, I can only tell you, that it is needleſs. If you can make up your mind to paſs the evening of your life with me, I ſhall rejoice, and if it ſhould pleaſe Providence that you ſhould drop aſleep before me, I ſhall write your epitaph. I had like to forgot an anecdote of the late Sir George Saville, that cannot fail to pleaſe you:——When this good man viſited his eſtate in this neighbourhood, he rode out early one morning on a little black horſe, in a plain ſuit of cloaths. He had not rode very far when he came to a mill. The day was cold, and the miller was thinly clad. What is the meaning, ſaid Sir George, that your houſe is not better thatched, and yourſelf better dreſſed? Why? ſaid the poor man, I

have

have a large family; we riſe early, we ſit up late, and the bread of idleneſs is never laid on my board, but the hand of induſtry is ſtill empty. The worthy baronet wiſhed to know the cauſe, and he told him:—My anceſtors, ſaid he, lived and died on the very farm I now poſſeſs. My leaſe expired, and my rent has been raiſed beyond what I can afford to pay, by a rapacious agent. I was loath to part what I almoſt looked on as my little patrimony, and I am now ſtruggling againſt the ſtream. Why, who is your landlord? An Engliſhman, Sir George Saville, and we are told, that he is one of the beſt of men, but he is too far off to hear my complaint. What did you pay for this land? Twelve ſhillings an acre, and then I could live on it. What do you now pay? Sixteen ſhillings. Then, ſaid Sir George, take your bill and write down twelve. I am your landlord. I leave you to feel what the poor miller felt, and I believe I need not tell you, that the worthy baronet was as good as his word; but this is not the

only

only anecdote that does honour to his memory in this country, but I muſt break off at preſent. Write the moment you get this, and remember that I am,

Your's truly,

J. W——.

When I ſpeak of actors, I wiſh to draw a line. It is with pleaſure I look back on the obſcure origin and feeble efforts of ſome, who, like tender plants, have been cheriſhed in the ſunſhine of public favour, and who have not ſo far forgotten themſelves, as to be inſenſible that it is through that medium they have reached to the ſummit of their profeſſions. On the other hand, I lament that there are others, whoſe private worth, and dramatic merit, may be ſaid to languiſh in obſcurity. In this claſs, I could name many, ſuch as Mr. Bernard, of Covent-garden, Mr. Grace, late of Richmond theatre, Mr. Cubitt, late of Covent-garden. If either of the managers could be prevailed on to give this claſs a *fair trial*, I am perſuaded they would not repent it.

The

The maternal anxiety of Mrs. Farren over her daughters diſcovered itſelf to the moſt indifferent obſerver; the acquiſition of private worth was nearly eclipſed by the public ability of the daughters; Miſs Kitty was an acquiſition, but Miſs Betſy's preſent ſituation ſufficiently proves the juſtneſs of my preſage. Mr. Younger did juſtice to her abilities by placing her in the collet of Drury-lane, where repeated auditors have witneſſed, and may they continue to do juſtice and admire the improver of faſhion, and the flippant genius of taſte.

I juſt became acquainted with Mr. W. Powell, of Covent-garden theatre, in a Company at Canterbury. The manager's name was Johnſton. He engaged Mrs. Moore and me; my ſalary was to be a guinea a week, and Mrs. Moore was on a ſhare. At the end of the week I expected the poor pittance at which I was enrolled. I waited on the manager, and demanded my guinea. Why, Sir, ſaid he, in a very authoritative tone, do you know what night of the week this is? I anſwered, that is was Saturday night, and that

that I expected to be paid my ſalary, and Mrs. Moore's ſhare. As to ſhare, ſaid he, there is none; and as to ſalary, I have tradeſmen's bills to pay, and can only give you half-a-crown, on which he turned on his heel and left me. On Monday morning I applied to the Mayor, who happened to be a Mercer, but he refuſed to grant me a ſummons, ſaying, he had nothing to do with plays or players. I took the liberty of informing him, as I was a weekly ſervant, it was his duty to recover my wages; on which he took down Burn's Juſtice, put on his ſpectacles, looked at himſelf in the glaſs, adjuſted his wig, and began to turn over the leaves. At length he cloſed the book, looked into a huge Belgic folio, and immediately ordered Johnſton to appear before him, in *propria quæ maribus*, as he called it. The manager attended, and paid me the guinea, but ſaid, he had nothing to ſay to Mrs. Moore's ſhare. I went to my lodgings, ſent for Powell, Wilks, and honeſt Billy Miller, and treated them to a dinner, of which, in truth, we all ſtood in need.

Mr.

Mr. Uſher and Lamaſh ſeemed to have diſcovered ſome inviſible mode of exiſtence, for their ſhares did not amount to one ſhilling and ſixpence a week. We wiſhed to extort the ſecret, when one of the Company, a genteel young man, ſaid, he ſhould introduce us to a friend who had given him a general invitation. The next day, before rehearſal, we agreed to ſet out on a viſit to his friend, the air was rather keen, and a ſlice of roaſt beef would have been very acceptable. At the end of three miles, he led us into a large turnip field. There gentleman, ſaid he, make yourſelves welcome, you ſee what a plentiful repaſt I have taken the liberty of inviting you to.

Had Barrymore, alias Bluet, behaved with any degree of gratitude, he would have ſaved himſelf an excellent horſe-wipping.—An old friend of mine, Captain Hill, who lived in Devonſhire-ſtreet, invited me to his houſe, and ſaid he ſhould be happy if I lived with him like himſelf. Seeing Barrymore's name in the bills

bills of Drury-lane, I ſent to him, by one of the Captain's ſervants, deſiring a few box orders, and they ſhould be allowed in the five guineas he owed me. He returned an impertinent anſwer, to which I retorted. The next day he came to enquire for me; before he told his name, Captain Hill, with his uſual politeneſs, invited him to ſit down, telling him, that Mr. Moore would be in at three o'clock to dinner, of which he invited him to partake; but the moment he told his name, the Captain rung the bell, and when the ſervant came, he ſaid, James, this is the fellow who ſent the impertinent anſwer to Mr. Moore's note, bring my horſe-whip, the effects of which he tried on maſter Barrymore's ſhoulders. The jokes which this circumſtance continued to excite, was allayed by the following melancholy accident:——A few days after, the Captain and I went down the river on a ſhooting party. We ſtopt on our return at the Gun Tavern, in the city, to refreſh ourſelves, where he ordered his ſervant, a lad, to draw

the

the charges out of our guns. I gave my gun to the boy to carry home, but the Captain carried his own in his hand. We called at the John of Gaunt's, public-houſe, Duke-ſtreet, Lincoln's-inn-fields, where he uſed to call occaſionally, to meet a few friends, and to amuſe himſelf with an old ſhoe-black, who had no ſmall ſhare of broad wit. The Captain gave him his boots to clean; on his return with them, the Captain preſented his piece at him, in order to frighten him, but unfortunately, it went off, and killed the poor man on the ſpot. My friend was ſo diſtreſſed, that he offered immediately to make proviſion for the wife and family of the deceaſed, but he had no children, and his wife was ſo overcome with the fatal news, that ſhe died the next day, and they were both buried in one grave.

As I was one day walking ſlowly along, turning matters in my mind, I chanced to meet with an old meſſmate, who had been at the taking of the Havannah. This city, which is the moſt populous, and the largeſt

largeſt in the Weſt Indies, and which boaſts one of the fineſt harbours in that quarter, ſurrendered to the Britiſh forces under the command of General Lord Albemarle, Admiral Sir George Pocock, and Commodore Keppel. The treaſure found might be ſaid to equal a national ſubſidy. The Neptuno of 70 guns, the Aſia and Europa 64, Spaniſh line of battle ſhips, were ſunk at the entrance of the harbour; the Tyger of 70 guns, Reyna 70, Soverano 70, Infanta 70, Aquilon 70, America 60, Conqueſtado 60, San Genaro 60, San Antonio 60, Vinganaza 24, Thetis 24, and Marte 18 guns, ſurrendered to the Britiſh commander in the harbour of the Havannah, beſides two ſhips of war that were on the ſtocks, with ſeveral merchant-ſhips. This event, ſo brilliant in the annals of Britiſh hiſtory, gave birth to the following lines:

Spain, jealous and proud, ſorely vexed to be told,
Her Havannah was loſt, her ſhips, caſtles, and gold,
Charg'd her Governor home for ſurrend'ring the place,
So much to his own, and his country's diſgrace;

A place

A place, ſaid the Court, which in every part,
Was render'd ſo ſtrong both by nature and art—
So impregnable thought, that we cannot conceive,
For your giving it up, what excuſe you can have;
To which he replied, with a confident air,
Sirs, my plea is—that Keppel and Pocock were there.

To return; my old acquaintance Tom Kelly, of true Hibernian mould, inſiſted on my taking a glaſs of punch with him. In the courſe of our converſation, he informed me that he had a ſnug birth aboard the Hercules, merchantman. This veſſel was built in the Gulph of Finland, burthen 800 tons. She was two years on the ſtocks, compoſed entirely of fir and pine, except her knees, which were oak. The axe and long Finland knife were the only tools employed. The ſaw and the plane were excluded. The hands were Swedes, except the cook, who was a Fin, and it was well for him, that he did not underſtandthe Swediſh language, for the poor fellow often thought they were praſing his culinary powers, when they were curſing him. My good friend almoſt perſuaded me to relinquiſh all the plans

that I indulged for many months, at the expence of my pillow, and to put to ſea once more. So true is that ſaying of Doctor King,

"The tar on land is never at his eaſe,
"'Till reinſtated in his pork and peaſe."

I conſulted a friend, however, and he perſuaded me to endeavour to put one of my plans in execution, and if it failed, I could try the main once more. But alas! my plan could not be carried into effect without a hundred pounds, and though unſkilled in magic, I could ſooner raiſe the D——l than that ſum. Old age, with all its concomitant evils, began to ſtare me in the face. I conſoled myſelf with the hopes that I had made ſome friends, but my mind revolted at the idea of pecuniary dependance. I began ſeriouſly to think of what I could do, and I now find that I adopted a line for which I am exceedingly ill calculated—Biography. —When I took up my pen, I flattered myſelf that I ſhould have it in my power

to

to do juſtice to the generoſity of ſome, the courage, patriotiſm, &c. of others, and that I ſhould not be entirely the hero of my own tale;—but ſickneſs, diſappointment, and chagrin continued to cloud my proſpects, and arreſt my feeble pen. To attempt an apology, would almoſt be vain, as every line would require one. On the theatric boards, I have often known the *will* taken for the *deed*, and if I am ſo lucky as to experience the ſame indulgence on *paper*, I ſhall then have it in my power to ſay, that a Britiſh audience, and Britiſh readers, never fail to pardon, even where they cannot praiſe.

FINIS.

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FINIS.